

# W O R K S E S S I O N

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**METRO**

MEETING: METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
DATE: May 23, 1995  
DAY: Tuesday  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
PLACE: Metro Council Chamber Annex

<u>Approx. Time *</u>		<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Lead Councilor</u>
2:00 PM	<b>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</b>		
(5 min.)	1. <b>INTRODUCTIONS</b>		
(5 min.)	2. <b>CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
(5 min.)	3. <b>EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
	4. <b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>		
2:15 PM (30 min.)	4.1 Presentation: Portland/Multnomah Progress Board Benchmarks	Wev	McFarland
2:45 PM (10 min.)	4.2 Update on Green City Data Project	Klein	Washington
2:55 PM (60 min.)	4.3 Discussion of long range funding		McCaig
3:55 PM (10 min.)	5. <b>COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
4:05 PM	<b>ADJOURN</b>		

For assistance/Services per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), dial TDD 797-1804 or 797-1540 (Council Office)

\* All times listed on the agenda are approximate; items may not be considered in the exact order listed.

# Portland-Multnomah Benchmarks

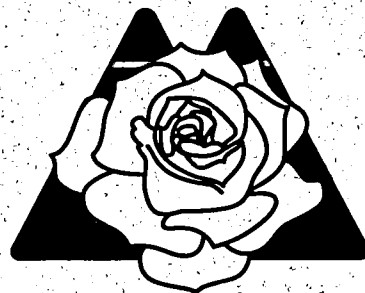
## 1994 ANNUAL REPORT



*Portland-Multnomah Progress Board*  
*January 1995*

**B** **Portland-Multnomah**  
**benchmarks**

**1994 Annual Report**



*Portland-Multnomah Progress Board*  
*January 1995*

# *City Council and County Commissioners*

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## *Portland City Council*

Honorable Vera Katz  
Mayor

Gretchen Kafoury  
Commissioner of Public Affairs

Charlie Hales  
Commissioner of Public Safety

Mike Lindberg  
Commissioner of Public Utilities

Earl Blumenauer  
Commissioner of Public Works

Barbara Clark  
City of Portland Auditor

## *Multnomah County Commissioners*

Beverly Stein  
Multnomah County Chair

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner, District 1

Gary Hansen  
Commissioner, District 2

Tanya Collier  
Commissioner, District 3

Sharron Kelley  
Commissioner, District 4

Gary Blackmer  
Multnomah County Auditor

# 1994 Portland-Multnomah Progress Board

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Vera Katz, Co-Chair  
Mayor, City of Portland

John Bierwirth, Superintendent  
Portland Public Schools

J.E. "Bud" Clark  
Mayor, City of Portland 1985-1992

Sho Dozono, President  
Azumano Travel

Sharon Gary-Smith

Barbara Karmel, President  
The Reed Company

Alex Munoz  
Hispanic Advocate

Dan Moriarty, President  
Portland Community College

Mary Zoe Petersen, Owner  
Gresham Optical/Custom Eyes

Judith Ramaley, President  
Portland State University

The Reverend John Rogers, Pastor  
Vernon Presbyterian Church

Beverly Stein, Co-Chair  
Chair, Multnomah County

Mike Thorne, Executive Director  
Alternate: David Lohman,  
Director of Policy & Planning  
Port of Portland

Bill Wyatt, Executive Director  
Oregon Business Council

Judy Wyers, Presiding Officer, 1993-1994  
Metro Council

Sharon Wylie, State Representative  
Wylie & Associates

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# *Introduction*

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This is the annual report of the Portland-Multnomah Progress Board for the 1994 program year. It is intended for wide distribution throughout Multnomah County. We hope it will be an important tool for citizens to understand the benchmarking process, and to participate in the achievement of the benchmarks.

Several hundred people participated in half day work sessions convened around benchmark topics during 1994. We hope that this edition of the benchmarks reflects well on their hard work, and that they will continue to be a part of our program in the future. We would also like to thank the members of the Progress Board. They devoted long hours to difficult discussions of data and statistical process, and their commitment to our program of telling the benchmarks story has inspired us all.

As benchmarking becomes a more practiced art, we develop important relationships with others in the community committed to the implementation of the Portland-Multnomah benchmarks program. We would like to thank the following organizations that have given us cordial and timely assistance during 1994: the Oregon Criminal Justice Council, Portland State University, the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission, the City of Portland

Auditor's Office, Multnomah County Office of Audits, the State Department of Education, the Oregon Employment Department, and Multnomah Commission on Children and Family. Special thanks go to Debbie McCabe, project manager for the Portland-Multnomah Progress Board through August, 1994.

We are working closely with the Oregon Progress Board to make their data collection efforts meaningful to those using benchmarks at the local level. The state Progress Board staff has been extremely helpful to us in every aspect of our program, and we appreciate the resources they have shared with us this year. We look forward to being advocates throughout Oregon for local use of the state's award winning approach to measuring community and government performance.

Statistical information for the benchmarks has proved to be more difficult to gather, verify, and use on an ongoing basis than was anticipated in our earlier report. We have emphasized the establishment of data bases for the Urgent Benchmarks this year; in 1995 we will systematically build our data network so that we have the necessary information for as many of the benchmarks as possible. We have not included targets in this report, because we believe they should be carefully developed after we have a better understanding of our data bases.



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The data gathered for this, and future, reports comes from a wide variety of sources. We attempt to include as much comparative data as possible (national, state, regional, county, city, and neighborhood). We sometimes combine different data sources where we feel it is statistically sound to do so. Because we want our data to be sound *over time*, we try to ensure that all data is consistent and comparable for as long a time period as possible. In the interest of affirming the integrity of data used in benchmarking, and as a public agency, we are anxious to share the technical aspects of our information with anyone interested. We welcome inquiries and suggestions about this important work.

Readers from outside the Portland-Multnomah area may want to note that the City of Portland is wholly contained in Multnomah County. In recent years areas of the county have been annexed by the city, and so comparative data over past time can be misleading.

The benchmarks listed in this report have been arranged in cluster groups. This is intended only to aggregate the benchmarks into subject areas for ease in location and discussion; it does not imply priority or weight in any way. During 1994 there were seven additional benchmarks added by the Portland-Multnomah Progress Board, bringing the total to 104. The eleven urgent benchmarks have been annotated with representative symbols indicat-

ing that they belong to others in addition to the Portland-Multnomah Progress Board. Benchmarks adopted by the State of Oregon are represented by the State Seal, and refer to the 1995 Progress Board Report to the State Legislature. Benchmarks adopted by Multnomah County are represented by the county's logo, and refer to the Multnomah County Benchmarks document for 1994-95.

# The Benchmarks Story

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## What is a benchmark?

A *milepost* along the way...a *measure* of where we are...an *indicator* of how we are doing. Benchmarks check the community's "vital signs" of its social, economic, and environmental health.

Prosperous communities require public-private collaboration; businesses, educational institutions, congregations, and individuals must work with government to achieve the vision the community has for its future. Benchmarks that supply information on the community's overall health measure everyone's performance. Most important, benchmarks can be the *rallying point for collaboration* among governments and all of the stakeholders in the community.

Benchmarks focus on *results*. Traditional measures of program performance count process and input indicators such as person-hours devoted to tasks, number of meetings held, or number of beds available in institutions. Benchmarks, however, measure outcomes of programs...number of children immunized, relative air

quality, academic achievement. Benchmarks are the ultimate evaluation of program success.

American government is under enormous pressure to become more *accountable* for its actions and for its expenditures. The 1990's have seen efforts at every level of government to innovate in order to deliver services more efficiently to "stakeholders" and "customers". The new language reflects the movement to "reinvent government" and change traditional ways of thinking about government services. Benchmarks are part of that new mind-set.

Portland and Multnomah County's benchmarks are the result of a five-year public-private process to define the future vision of our community. Thousands of citizens have spoken, and sometimes voted, on their values and expectations. The goals that follow are a way of pointing community stakeholders toward a shared vision; the benchmarks provide signposts along the way to measure progress toward those goals.

# Community Goals

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## *A shared vision for the future... Community Goals*

Benchmarks must reflect the community's common vision for its future. Before developing benchmarks and targets for their achievement, Portland and Multnomah County citizens set forth goals for that vision. The goals describe the community that government, business, non-profit organizations, and citizens are willing to help build in the future.

### **Economy**

- Grow and attract internationally competitive companies that support well compensated jobs with long-term potential.
- Build a world-class workforce that provides the full range of skills necessary to attract and sustain competitive, high performance companies.
- Ensure that all residents, particularly low-income and unemployed people, have the opportunity to benefit from business growth.
- Foster and create vital neighborhoods with affordable housing and healthy commercial districts.

### **Education, Children and Families**

- Value children and help them achieve their full potential.
- Graduate all children from high school with skills enabling them to succeed in the work force and/or in post-secondary education, including the fundamental ability to read, write, compute, communicate, and reason.
- Establish stronger educational programs beyond the secondary level to meet the region's needs for accessible education, expanded graduate programs, high quality research, technology transfer, and economic development.
- Provide access to basic health care for all citizens.
- Enable citizens with special needs to live and receive a full range of services throughout the region.
- Make full use of the talents of the elderly and provide excellent human services for them.

# Community Goals (Continued)

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## Environment, Quality of Life

- Preserve and expand the community's system of parks, open spaces, and natural areas.
- Provide an adequate variety and supply of safe, decent, affordable housing.
- Ensure that each neighborhood is healthy and vigorous.
- Enhance the community's quality of life through diverse arts and through cultural and community events that are accessible to all residents.
- Implement alternatives to the automobile in the region.
- Encourage the conservation of resources and energy.
- Retain and continue to develop the unique character of Portland as a major metropolitan area.
- Manage regional growth to provide effective public services at the lowest responsible cost, to improve environmental quality, and to enhance the quality of life.

## Governance

- Create stronger, more innovative, more responsive citizen and elected leadership.
- Restructure government within the region to more effectively address regional and local needs.
- Restructure local government to provide needed services at lower cost.

## Public Safety

- Reduce crime, especially violent crime, as well as the fear of crime, and increase city and community partnerships beginning in high crime areas.
- Develop and continue regional partnerships to increase emergency preparedness county-wide.

# The Portland-Multnomah Progress Board

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## *The Portland-Multnomah Progress Board*

Created in September 1993, the Portland-Multnomah Progress Board is the culmination of long term strategic planning efforts by the State of Oregon as well as the City of Portland and Multnomah County. From a long range planning program begun by Governor Neil Goldschmidt in 1986, came *Oregon Shines*, a document challenging Oregonians to bring their communities into the Twenty-first Century prepared for changing economic and social conditions.

The State Legislature created the Oregon Progress Board in 1989 to monitor the State's implementation of *Oregon Shines*; the Progress Board then formulated the first benchmarks to tell the State how it was doing relative to the goals in *Oregon Shines*. Governor Barbara Roberts made the Progress Board a priority and tied the benchmarks closely to the state budgeting process. Governor John Kitzhaber has committed to continuing this important work.

Meanwhile, the City of Portland and Multnomah County each launched similar efforts. In 1991 Mayor Bud Clark introduced *Portland Future Focus*, an ongoing program to implement a strategic vision for the city. The 1989 *Visions* project, updated in 1992, expressed a long term

plan for Multnomah County. *Future Focus* and *Visions* set the stage for the development of benchmarks.

Thousands of people have come together during the past five years to formulate the vision and set the benchmarks. Through meetings, surveys, interviews, and individual comments, the citizens of Portland and Multnomah County have described their desired future and set forth the mileposts by which progress will be measured.

When Beverly Stein was elected chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, she and Portland Mayor Vera Katz collaborated on several innovative efforts to adjust city and county programs to the new realities of budget constraints, growth and population changes within the County. Each wanted to undertake a benchmarking program similar to the State of Oregon's, so they created a joint Progress Board to monitor the already articulated common vision shared by the city and the county.

The importance of their collaboration around benchmarks and in several other areas, won them a joint award as "Local Public Officials of the Year" from *Governing Magazine* in 1994, which cited their choice "to look for new ways to fuse city and county together", describing the results as "impressive".

## *The Portland-Multnomah Progress Board (Continued)*

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Collaboration among Governor Roberts, Chair Stein, and Mayor Katz resulted in another exciting first during 1994. They took a proposal to the federal government offering Oregon as a laboratory for the testing of innovative practices recommended in the President's "Reinventing Government" initiative.

On December 5, 1994, Vice President Al Gore signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with Oregon that promises to form a partnership with Oregon and its local governments to simplify federal funding streams and regulations, so that resources can be concentrated on program results, defined by benchmarks. Dubbed "*The Oregon Option*", this exciting experiment promises to test radical changes in the way government at all levels provides services to its customers.

The Portland-Multnomah Progress Board begins its second year in the spirit of this leadership. During 1994 both the City and the County adopted the benchmarks and are committed to their use as an intrinsic part of their budgeting and evaluation process. Now the Progress

Board will "tell the benchmarks story" to others and initiate partnerships with other local governments and special districts in the county, the business community, and neighborhood groups. Those groups will be asked to adopt benchmarks as a way of doing business, and to sign on to the Portland-Multnomah Benchmarks as an expression of their commitment to the achievement of community goals. The Progress Board will also offer assistance in providing information on data and "promising practices" in innovative community problem solving.

# *Benchmarking is a new art ... and a young science ...*

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## ***Benchmarking is a new art...***

Businesses have used benchmarking for a number of years; it has proven its worth in its application to manufacturing efficiencies and management improvements. However, benchmarking is a new art in public and non-profit organizations. Oregon has been a leader in the use of benchmarks, but as former Governor Barbara Roberts states, "As far as we've come, and as hard as it's been, we are still only about six percent of the way toward where we want to be in benchmarking."

As we tell the benchmarks story, we are aware that we are on the cutting edge of a new approach to designing and evaluating management systems and public policy. We have found that it is very hard work. Once again, Oregonians find ourselves being pioneers in an exciting new area. There are, however, some lessons to be learned from our experience to date:

- **Leadership is the key to the effective use of benchmarks in any organization.** Commitment to their use, and to a change of mindset, must come from the top, and must be constantly exerted as the new standard of excellence.
- **Benchmarking is a new way of doing business.** It requires that all members of the organization understand that a "sea change" is underway. Refocusing on results rather than process is a drastic change. Collaboration, especially between private and public interests, can be an uncomfortable process. As with any innovative practice, benchmarking must be communicated early and often to staff through open communication with leadership and a significant commitment of training resources.
- **Benchmarking is embraced by members of both political parties.** It does not represent any particular political viewpoint. In the Oregon legislature, and in Portland and Multnomah County, benchmarking has received widespread bi-partisan support.
- **Reliable, credible information is intrinsic to the success of benchmarking.** Although it would seem that a great deal of data exists on most indicators, there is a lack of uniformity and comparability over time of that data. In addition, benchmarks often require data that is not

## *Benchmarking is a new art ... (Continued)*

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available, particularly relating to citizen and customer satisfaction with services.

- **Benchmarking is hard work.** The process of institutional change necessary is sometimes painful. And the technical process is unproven. We are constantly challenged to be creative. It is truly a process of “reinventing” government, non-profit agencies, and private organizations.



# *How are we doing?*

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## *How are we doing?*

The benchmarks should be telling us how we are doing as a community in achieving our goals. So in early 1995, how are we doing?

### **The Economy**

Oregon and Multnomah County continue to experience overall economic growth. However, we have not entirely recovered from the costly recession of the early 1980's. Although average annual payroll per worker increased 43% between 1984 and 1993, and remains above the Oregon average, Oregon wages are currently at 89% of the national average. Between 1980 and 1987 wages fell from 97% of the national average to 88%, so we still have a good bit of ground to make up. Although Oregon wages are expected to grow at a healthy 6% until the year 2000, they are expected not to exceed 90% of the national average by that time.

Portland area businesses have created nearly 20,000 new jobs since July 1993, primarily in the non-manufacturing sector, and most of them in suburban counties. Job creation is occurring faster than growth of the labor force, indicating a future need to import workers from other

areas or train the existing workforce to compete for new jobs.

Other evidence of economic prosperity is the 11.7% increase in assessed value of property in Multnomah County from 1993 to 1994. Although regional housing starts have shown healthy increases in the past five years, housing starts in Multnomah County have remained stable. The surplus of commercial and industrial property that existed in the late 1980's has been absorbed in recent years, and by mid-1994 the vacancy rate in the urban core was the lowest of any large U.S. city.

The cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, has remained at a relatively stable 3% for the past three years; this trend is expected to continue except in the area of medical services.

The Portland metropolitan area is expected to continue to grow. Favorable "quality of life" factors continue to attract skilled and educated workers to the region. *The challenge to Portland and Multnomah County is to capture a fair share of that growth and to ensure that its benefits accrue to those citizens who need it most.*

# How are we doing? (Continued)

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## Education

Educational institutions in Oregon have faced tremendous uncertainties in recent years. Statewide education reform is still being implemented, and changes have just now come into full sight at the elementary and secondary levels. Funding uncertainties as a consequence of Measure 5 have demoralized school personnel and students alike, although drastic predictions of doom have been avoided due to the expanding economy.

Program reductions in the post-secondary system have caused many students to look outside of Oregon for college and graduate schools, because of uncertainties concerning the long term stability of professional education programs. Community colleges continue to be challenged by demands that include university level instruction, continuing education, and workforce development.

It is too early to assess the impacts of educational reform measures, and probably too early to evaluate the long term effects of funding reductions. However, as the nation looks to Oregon once again for the results of innovative programs, we expect to shape and access statistical measures that will allow us to do so.

## Healthcare

In 1992 fifteen percent (15%) of Oregonians did not have health insurance. Access to healthcare continues to be a priority in Portland and Multnomah County. The Oregon Health Plan began to address this issue in March 1994. However, it is too early to gauge its impact in the Multnomah County area.

The public interest in healthcare has gone beyond health insurance to emphasis on cost containment in recent years. This has led to recognition of the need to educate the public concerning prevention and early diagnosis of disease. The emphasis is on "wellness" programs such as exercise, nutrition, and safe sexual practices. Public attention must be further turned to the prevention and early detection of such diseases as AIDS, cancer, and heart disease. Through the *Oregon Option*, mentioned above, the State has made a commitment to increase the percentage of two year olds immunized against childhood diseases from 53% in 1994 to 90% by 1997.

Such change in focus from treatment to prevention has changed the way many healthcare services are delivered, with increases in membership of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and preferred provider organizations (PPOs). This has brought a concentration of large

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institutional healthcare providers to the marketplace, reducing the number of individual practitioners. All providers now struggle to maintain quality services while containing costs.

### **Public Safety**

Fear of crime has become an important consideration for most urban citizens. This fear, whether based on actual crime rates or not, is a major determinant of human actions within the urban setting. Crime statistics are usually reported in the ratio of reported crimes per 1,000 persons in the general population. Since 1989 there has been a drop in crimes against people (murder, robbery, rape, kidnapping, assault) in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. The rate per 1,000 dropped from 18.70 to 17.96 in the City of Portland. Similarly, the rate declined from 15.33 to 14.86 in Multnomah County. A similar decline (4%) has taken place throughout the State. The City of Portland's "against people" crime rate remains 72% above the State average.

Domestic violence is an increasing concern in all communities. Unfortunately, data on this issue are difficult to collect and verify. We will work hard during 1995 to find or construct a database for this important information.

### **Neighborhood Livability**

Residents of Portland and Multnomah County live, work, and play in several "communities". The recreation community extends throughout the State. The work community extends from Salem, across the Columbia River into Vancouver. The residential community tends to be the area in which people live, shop, and educate their children. Citizens believe that a wide range of factors contribute to the livability of each of these communities. Because municipal boundaries do not always accurately define "community", assessments of community livability can be difficult.

However, Portland and Multnomah County now have an excellent tool to measure citizen attitudes toward community within the borders of the county, the City of Portland, and its neighborhoods. The Service Efforts and Accomplishments Report is an annual study of government performance which includes information from a survey of citizens concerning municipal services and community attitudes. The City of Portland has published the report since 1990.

The 1994 report indicates that a high proportion (78%) of residents rate their neighborhood livability as "good" or "very good." An even greater number (82%) felt safe

## *How are we doing? (Continued)*

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walking in their neighborhoods during the day, but only 36% (City) or 38% (County) felt the same at night. As with many other factors in the area of community livability, there was wide disparity among the residents of city neighborhoods concerning the livability of their area, ranging from 64% in Northeast to 93% in Southwest.

### **Governance**

The majority of citizens (54%) throughout urban Multnomah County feel that government is doing a "good" or "very good" job of providing services. In unincorporated Multnomah County the number falls slightly to 49%. There is a disparity in this indicator among neighborhood coalition areas in the City of Portland as well. In the North and East coalition area, only 45% and 44% respectively of residents rate government services "good" or "very good." Most satisfied with government services were the Northwest/Downtown area (63%) and Southwest (60%).

The cost of governance is of increasing importance to all citizens. One of our Urgent Benchmarks relating to governance describes the "dollars spent for City and County government", however, we present here several other measures of government cost and efficiency. The data shows that although per capita expenditures by the City of Portland and Multnomah County have increased over recent years, property tax as a percent of income has fallen

throughout Multnomah County. Per capita property tax declined from 5.30% of personal income in 1984-85 to 4.22% of personal income in 1994-95. This is particularly notable since the decline has occurred mostly in the last three fiscal years.

# 1995 Urgent Benchmarks

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## Introduction:

We focus on the Urgent Benchmarks in order to address pressing problems or needs in the next few years. These eleven Urgent Benchmarks were selected from the list of 104 benchmarks. The benchmarks are numbered according to their order as presented in the January 1994 Annual Report. We kept this numbering system to maintain consistency with that report.

In the following pages, we present data on the Urgent Benchmarks. Each benchmark is identified by one to three symbols. The symbols represent benchmarks adopted by these government jurisdictions:



**The Portland-Multnomah Progress Board**



**Multnomah County**



**State of Oregon**

## Urgent Benchmarks:

3. Average annual payroll per non-farm worker.
6. Percentage of citizens with incomes above 100% of the federal poverty level.
30. Percentage of children 0-17 living above 100% of the poverty level.
37. Percentage of students who achieve established skill levels.
44. Percentage of citizens who have economic access to basic health care.
61. Percentage of people who rate their neighborhood livability high.
76. Percentage of citizens who feel government is doing a good job at providing services.
82. Per capita dollars spent for city and county government.
84. Percentage of citizens who feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood during the day or night.
86. Number of reported incidents of domestic violence by age (children and elderly) including families repeatedly victimized.
87. Number of reported crimes against people per 1,000 population.

# Average Annual Payroll

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## ***Urgent Benchmark #3: Average annual payroll per non-farm worker.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark measures the average amount paid to workers living in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. The benchmark serves as a measure of economic prosperity of employed workers.

### **Trends:**

□ Table 1 shows that the average annual payroll for Multnomah County workers increased 43% between

the years 1984-1993. In comparison, the average annual payroll for workers throughout the State of Oregon increased by 38% during the same time period.

□ As Graph 1 shows, the average annual payroll for Multnomah County workers has been higher than the State of Oregon over the past ten years.

**Table 1  
Average Annual Payroll Per Non-Farm Worker**

Area	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Multnomah County	\$19,121	\$19,657	\$20,367	\$21,080	\$22,023	\$22,878	\$23,959	\$25,230	\$26,605	\$27,298
State of Oregon	\$17,399	\$17,850	\$18,311	\$18,885	\$19,637	\$20,290	\$21,321	\$22,353	\$23,517	\$24,093

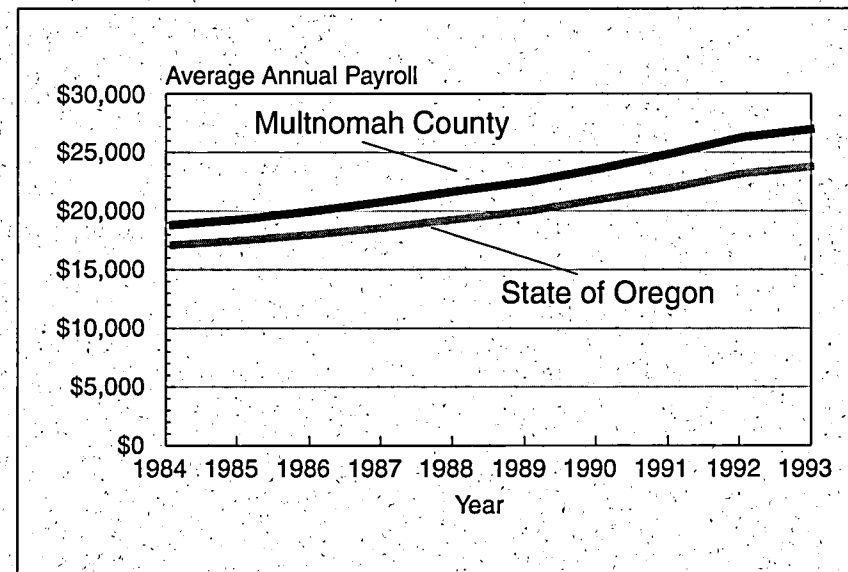
**Source:** Oregon Employment Department, Unemployment Insurance Tax Files, 1983-1993.



**Data Description:** The data represents all workers who are covered by unemployment insurance legislation. Well over 90% of all non-farm wage and salary workers fall under such coverage. The information presented does not distinguish between full-time and part-time workers and is not adjusted for inflation.

The data presented in Table 1 and Graph 1 only represents Multnomah County and the State of Oregon. At present, data is not available for the City of Portland.

**Graph 1:  
Average Annual Payroll per  
Non-Farm Worker by Year**



**Source:** Oregon Employment Department, Unemployment Insurance Tax Files, 1983-1993.

# People in Poverty

## ***Urgent Benchmark #6: Percentage of citizens with incomes above 100% of the federal poverty level.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark measures the percentage of citizens from the City of Portland and Multnomah County who maintain incomes above the Federal Poverty level. The purpose of this benchmark is to monitor the level of citizens who are economically disadvantaged.

### **Trends:**

- Table 2 presents the percentage of citizens with incomes above 100% of the federal poverty level by ethnicity. Overall, little change is seen in the poverty level between 1980 and 1990 for citizens in the City of Portland, Multnomah County and the State of Oregon.
- Graph 2 presents the data according to ethnic groups. African-Americans have the lowest percentages of citizens who are above the poverty level. Whites, in comparison, have the highest percentages of citizens above the poverty level.

**Table 2**  
**The Percentage of Citizens with Incomes Above 100% of the Federal Poverty Level by Year**

Ethnic Groups	City of Portland		Multnomah County		State of Oregon	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
African-Americans	71%	69%	71%	70%	72%	70%
American-Indians	76%	68%	76%	72%	78%	74%
Asians	73%	78%	76%	79%	78%	80%
Hispanics	78%	74%	80%	74%	79%	71%
Whites	89%	88%	90%	89%	90%	89%
<b>All Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>88%</b>

**Source:** 1980 and 1990 U.S. Census of Population.

**Note:** In the 1980 census, a greater percentage of citizens of Spanish origin were categorized as "other". Therefore, the reader should use caution in interpreting the percentages for Hispanics.

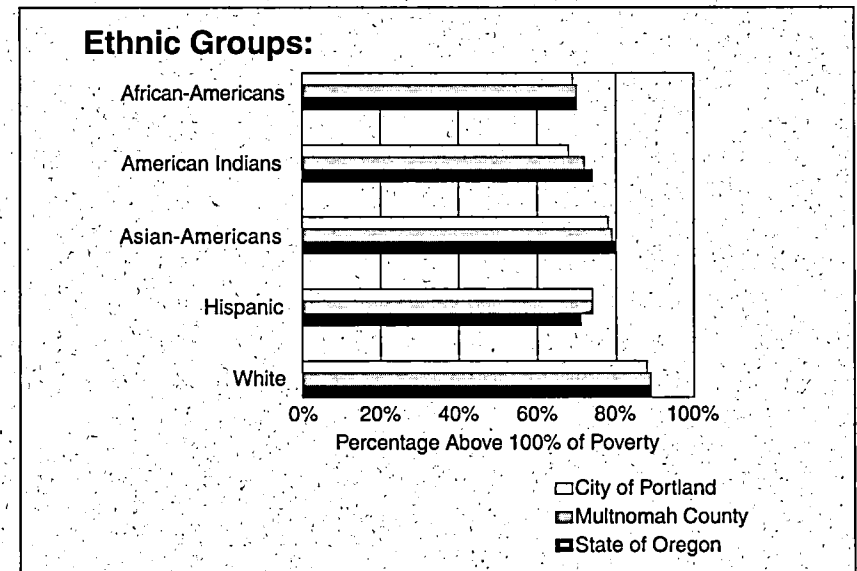




- The City of Portland and Multnomah County have greater percentages of Hispanics above the federal poverty level compared to the State as a whole.

**Data Description:** Data for 1980 and 1990 was derived from the U.S. Census. The percentages are based on persons which are the sum of the number of persons in families with incomes above the poverty level and the number of unrelated individuals with incomes above the poverty level. The census excludes inmates of institutions, persons in military group quarters, in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.

**Graph 2:  
Percentage of Citizens with Incomes Above  
100% of the Poverty Level in 1990**



Source: 1980 and 1990 U.S. Census of Population.

# Children in Poverty

## ***Urgent Benchmark #30: Percentage of children 0-17 living above 100% of the poverty level.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark measures the well-being of families living in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. By monitoring this benchmark, we understand the impact of efforts to increase the percentage of children living above the poverty level.

### **Trends:**

- ❑ For all children between the ages of 0-4 and 5-17, the percentage above poverty fell between 1980 and 1990 (see Table 3). This means that slightly more children are living in poverty today compared to a decade ago.
- ❑ When looking at ethnic groups, the percentage of children 0-17 living above poverty remained the same or declined between 1980 and 1990 with one exception (see Table 3). The exception is Asian-American children (0-17) which increased in percentages for all three government jurisdictions.
- ❑ Graph 3 shows a breakdown of poverty status according to ethnic groups in 1990. The percentage of white children who are above the poverty level is greater

**Table 3**  
**The Percentage of Children 0-17 Living Above 100% of the Poverty Level by Year**

Age and Ethnic Groups	City of Portland		Multnomah County		State of Oregon	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
0-4 years old	81%	79%	83%	81%	85%	80%
5-17 years old	85%	82%	88%	84%	89%	86%
African-Americans	64%	61%	63%	62%	66%	64%
American-Indians	80%	62%	77%	66%	76%	68%
Asians	65%	73%	69%	74%	75%	81%
Hispanics	74%	67%	77%	67%	78%	65%
Whites	89%	85%	90%	87%	89%	86%
<b>All Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>84%</b>

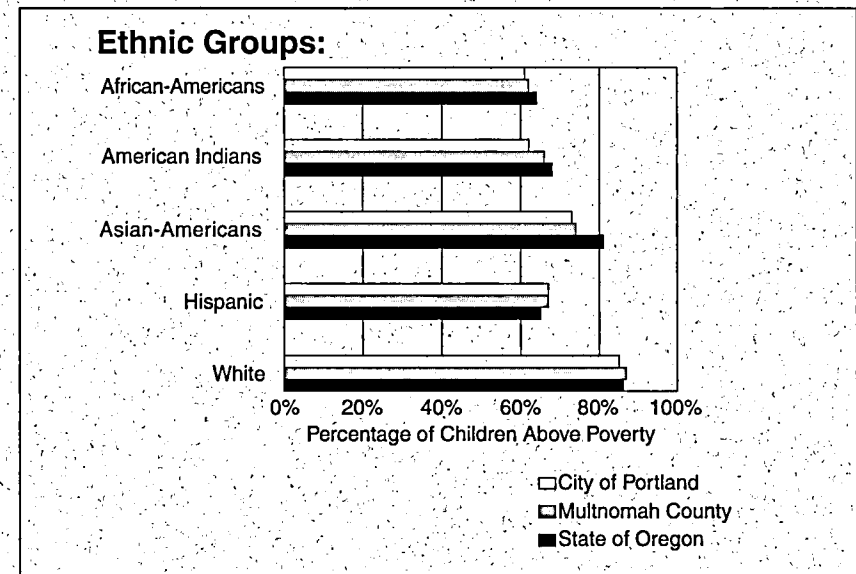
**Source:** 1980 and 1990 U.S. Census of Population.



than other ethnic groups. This means that white children are less likely to be in poverty compared to other ethnic groups.

**Data Description:** The data from this benchmark is derived from the 1980 and 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing. See Benchmark #6 for a description of citizens excluded from the census.

**Graph 3:  
Percentage of Children 0-17 Living  
Above 100% of the Poverty Level in 1990**



Source: 1990 U.S. Census of Population.

# Youth Education

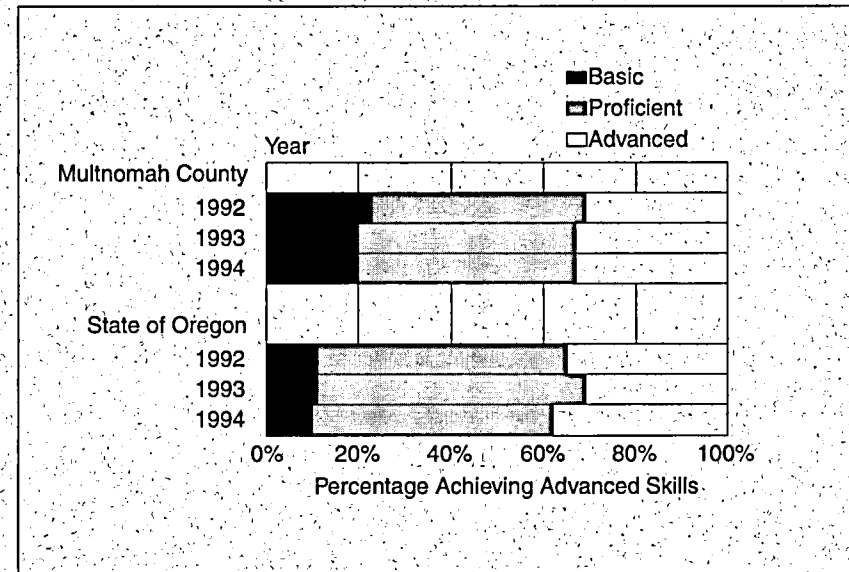
## ***Urgent Benchmark #37: Percentage of students who achieve established skill levels.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark focuses on how well our children are learning the basic skills they need to prepare themselves as adult citizens. Efforts to better educate children will advance our goal of attaining the best educated citizens in the nation.

### **Trends:**

- Graph 4 shows the percentage of third grade students achieving advanced skills in reading. In 1992 and 1994, students statewide fared better than Multnomah County. In 1993, a greater percentage of students in Multnomah County achieved advanced skills when compared to the State of Oregon.
- For most grades tested, Multnomah County students lag behind Oregon students for advanced reading proficiency when examining the past three years. Table 4 (on page 28) shows that, however, third and eighth graders from Multnomah County had slightly higher percentages of advanced reading skills when compared to students statewide.

**Graph 4:  
Percentage of Third Grade Students  
Achieving Advanced Skills in Reading**



**Source:** Oregon Statewide Assessment, Department of Education, State of Oregon, 1992-1994.



- In the future, it will be important for us to analyze this information by ethnicity.

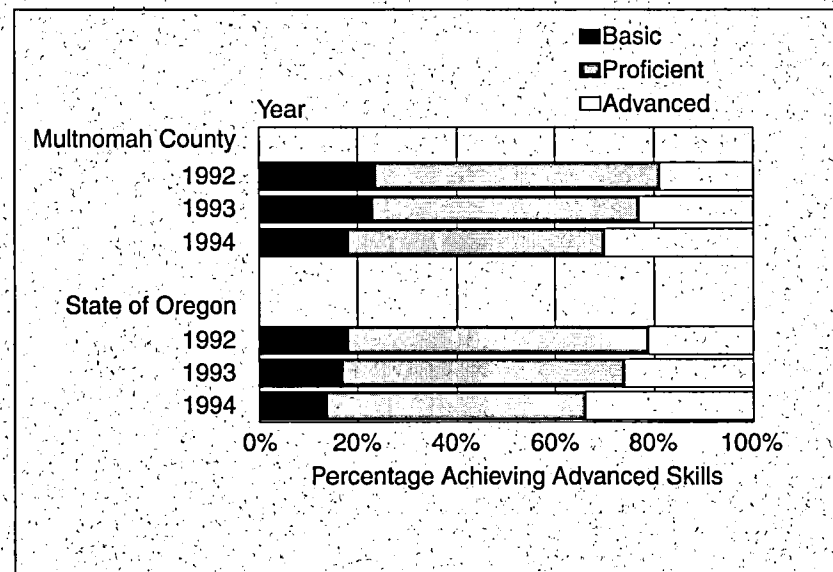
**Data Description:** Table 4 (on page 28) presents the data according to three established skill levels: basic, proficient, and advanced. There are various definitions of skill levels. However, the 1993 Oregon Statewide Assessment defines established skill levels as follows:

**Basic:** "This level denotes only partial mastery of the Essential Learning Skills and the Common Curriculum Goals at their grade level. Students at this level are most likely not making satisfactory progress for their grade and probably functioning below grade level expectations."

**Proficient:** "This level denotes solid, strong, acceptable mastery of the Essential Learning Skills and Common Curriculum Goals at their grade. Students at this level are making satisfactory progress and are well prepared for the next grade level of schooling."

**Advanced:** "This level denotes very high, superior performance and students at this level are probably functioning above grade level expectations."

**Graph 5:  
Percentage of Eleventh Grade Students  
Achieving Advanced Skills in Reading**



**Source:** Oregon Statewide Assessment, Department of Education, State of Oregon, 1992-1994.

# Youth Education (Continued)

**Table 4**  
**Percentage of Students Who**  
**Achieve Established Skill Levels**

Skill Level by Grade	Multnomah County									State of Oregon								
	1992			1993			1994			1992			1993			1994		
	Basic	Pro	Adv	Basic	Pro	Adv	Basic	Pro	Adv	Basic	Pro	Adv	Basic	Pro	Adv	Basic	Pro	Adv
<b>Third Grade:</b>																		
1. Reading	23%	46%	31%	20%	47%	33%	20%	47%	33%	11%	54%	35%	11%	58%	31%	10%	52%	38%
2. Math	20%	57%	23%	20%	54%	26%	20%	52%	28%	16%	66%	18%	15%	64%	21%	16%	63%	21%
<b>Fifth Grade:</b>																		
1. Reading	22%	50%	28%	20%	55%	25%	19%	54%	27%	16%	55%	29%	16%	58%	26%	12%	55%	33%
2. Math	22%	58%	20%	21%	55%	24%	24%	52%	24%	20%	67%	13%	21%	64%	15%	22%	64%	14%
<b>Eighth Grade:</b>																		
1. Reading	22%	52%	25%	21%	54%	25%	18%	53%	29%	16%	60%	26%	18%	60%	22%	13%	52%	35%
2. Math	27%	50%	23%	23%	51%	27%	21%	51%	28%	16%	64%	20%	17%	65%	18%	17%	63%	20%
<b>Eleventh Grade:</b>																		
1. Reading	24%	58%	19%	23%	54%	23%	18%	52%	30%	18%	61%	21%	17%	57%	26%	14%	52%	34%
2. Math	32%	55%	12%	39%	50%	11%	42%	48%	10%	29%	58%	13%	35%	52%	13%	39%	52%	9%

Source: Oregon Statewide Assessment, Department of Education, State of Oregon, 1992-1994.

# Economic Access to Healthcare



## ***Urgent Benchmark # 44: Percentage of citizens who have economic access to basic healthcare.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark focuses on the economic barriers to accessing healthcare services in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Without adequate health insurance, citizens are likely to delay or forego needed healthcare services.

There are many factors that affect a person's access to healthcare, several economic factors among them. We will work to better define and analyze these factors. At the present time, we have chosen health insurance as a proxy for those factors.

### **Trends:**

- Table 5 shows the percentage of citizens in 1992 who have health insurance. Whites and African-Americans have the highest percentages of citizens with health insurance.
- Citizens who are less likely to have health insurance are Hispanics when comparing all ethnic groups state-wide. In Multnomah County, American-Indians are less likely to have health insurance.

**Table 5**  
**Percentage of Citizens Who Have Health Insurance**  
**By County and State in 1992**

Ethnic Group	Multnomah County	State of Oregon
	1992	1992
African-Americans	85%	84%
American-Indians	69%	74%
Asians	78%	81%
Hispanics	80%	67%
Whites	84%	86%

**Source:** Oregon Population Survey, Oregon Progress Board, 1992.

**Data Description:** The data was derived from a question on the 1992 Oregon Population Survey conducted by the Oregon Progress Board. The question is as follows: "Are you presently covered by some kind of health insurance plan?" Respondents answered yes or no to this question.

# Neighborhood Livability

## ***Urgent Benchmark #61: Percentage of people who rate their neighborhood livability high.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark addresses how the City of Portland and Multnomah County citizens perceive the quality of living in their neighborhoods.

### **Trends:**

- ❑ In general, citizens rate their neighborhood livability high. As Table 6 shows, 78% of all Multnomah citizens surveyed rate their neighborhood livability as "good" to "very good." Table 6 also shows that City of Gresham citizens give the highest ratings for livability (86%).
- ❑ Table 7 compares neighborhood livability for Portland citizens in 1993 and 1994. Little change is seen between years in how Portland citizens rate their neighborhood livability.
- ❑ Graph 7 shows the percentage of citizens who rate their neighborhood livability high in 1994 according to neighborhoods and other areas. Southwest citizens give the highest ratings (93%).

**Table 6  
Percentage of Citizens Who Rate  
Their Neighborhood Livability High in 1994**

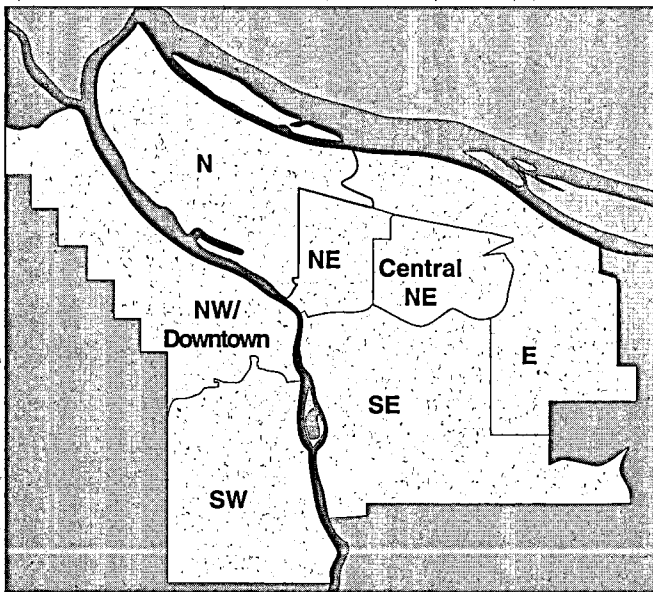
Rating	City of Portland	City of Gresham	Remainder of Multnomah County	Total Multnomah County
<b>High Livability (very good + good)</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>78%</b>
Very good	25%	28%	31%	25%
Good	52%	58%	50%	53%
Neither bad nor good	18%	12%	14%	17%
Bad	4%	1%	4%	4%
Very bad	1%	1%	1%	1%

**Source:** 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).





**Graph 6:  
Geographical Boundaries of  
Portland Neighborhood Coalitions and  
Other Areas in Multnomah County**



**Source:** City of Portland Auditor's Office, 1994.

**Geographical Boundaries of  
Neighborhoods and Other Areas:**

As Graph 6 shows, the City of Portland is divided approximately into seven neighborhoods. Also included is the City of Gresham and the remainder of Multnomah County:

**NW/Downtown** - borders the Willamette River to the north and east, Patton, Highway 26, and I-405 to the south.

**Southwest** - borders Patton, Highway 26, and I-405 to the north, and the Willamette River to the east.

**Central Northeast** - borders Columbia Blvd and Sandy Blvd to the north, 33rd and 42nd to the west, the Banfield Highway to the south, and I-205 to the east.

**Northeast** - borders Columbia Blvd to the north, Albina to the west, the Banfield Highway to the south, and 33rd to the east.

**Southeast** - borders the Banfield Highway to the north, the Willamette River to the west, I-205 to the east, Holgate and 40 Mile Loop Trail.

**North** - borders the Columbia River to the north, Willamette River to the west, Albina and the Peninsula Drainage Canal to the east.

**East** - borders the Columbia River to the north, the Peninsula Drainage Canal to the west, Columbia Blvd. to the south, and 162nd to the east.

**City of Gresham**

**Remainder of Multnomah County** - includes unincorporated areas and these smaller cities: Fairview, Maywood Park, Troutdale, and Wood Village.

# Neighborhood Livability (Continued)

In contrast, Northeast citizens have the lowest percentage (64%) who give high ratings for neighborhood livability.

**Data Description:** The data from this benchmark is derived from the annual Citizen Survey conducted by City and County Auditors. In 1993, data was collected from the City of Portland only. In 1994, the sample included Multnomah County and the City of Portland.

A random selection of residents was asked the following question: "Overall, how do you rate the livability of your neighborhood?" Respondents were given five choices in answering the question ranging from "very good" to "very bad." The data was weighted according to Housing Unit counts by census tracts.

**Table 7**  
**Percentage of Portland Citizens Who Rate Their Neighborhood Livability High in 1994**

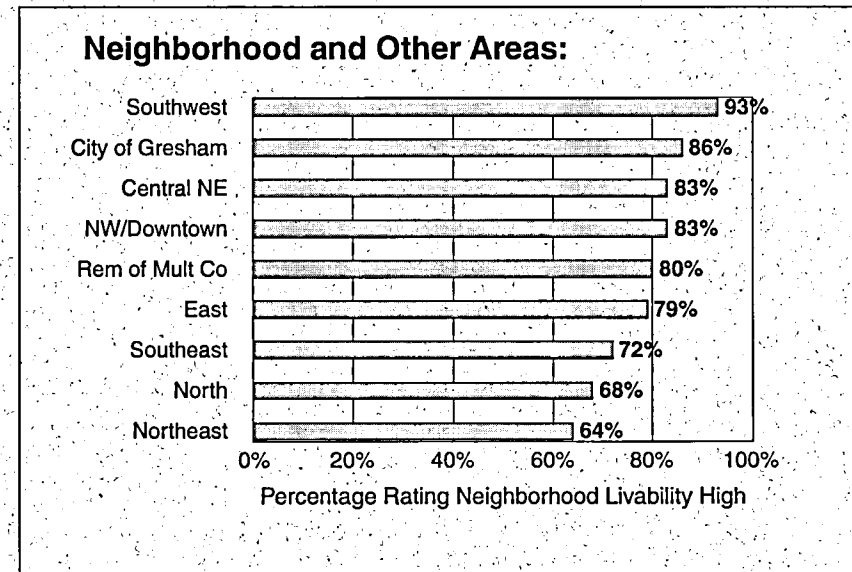
Rating	City of Portland	
	1993	1994
<b>High Livability (very good + good)</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>77%</b>
Very good	25%	25%
Good	52%	52%
Neither bad nor good	17%	18%
Bad	5%	4%
Very bad	1%	1%

**Source:** 1993 Portland Citizen Survey (City Auditor). 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).



As Graph 7 shows, the data is presented according to seven neighborhood coalitions. Neighborhood coalitions are groupings of neighborhoods throughout the City of Portland. The neighborhoods coalitions are approximated by grouping census tracts together. Graph 6 displays the boundaries for neighborhood coalitions.

**Graph 7:  
Percentage of Citizens in 1994 Who Rate Their  
Neighborhood Livability High**



**Source:** 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).

# Government Performance

## ***Urgent Benchmark # 76: Percentage of citizens who feel government is doing a good job at providing services.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark evaluates the City of Portland and Multnomah County citizens' perception of government performance.

### **Trends:**

- Table 8 displays ratings of government performance in three areas of Multnomah County: City of Portland, City of Gresham, and the remainder of Multnomah County. In addition, the entire area of Multnomah County is presented in the Total Column. According to the table, 52% of all citizens in Multnomah County feel the government is doing a good job.
- Graph 8 provides a breakdown of the data according to neighborhood coalitions and other areas in Multnomah County. The greatest percentage of citizens (63%) who feel government is doing a good job reside in the Northwest/Downtown area. In contrast, only 43% of citizens from the East give the City and County government high marks.

**Table 8  
Percentage of Citizens  
Who Feel Government is Doing  
a Good Job in 1994**

Rating	City of Portland	City of Gresham	Remainder of Multnomah County	Total Multnomah County
<b>Job of Government: (very good + good)</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Very good	5%	5%	4%	5%
Good	47%	49%	45%	47%
Neither bad nor good	37%	38%	36%	37%
Bad	8%	5%	11%	8%
Very bad	3%	3%	4%	3%

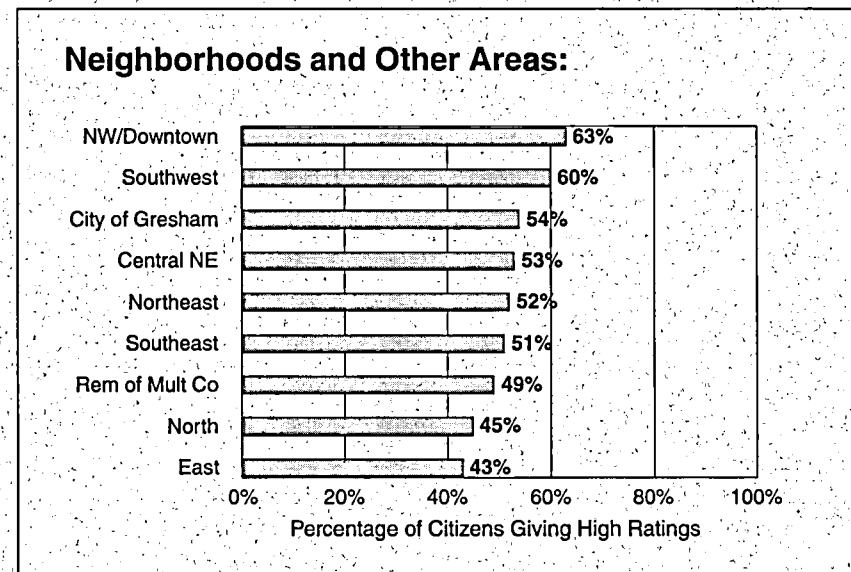
**Source:** 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).



**Data Description:** Data from this benchmark comes from the annual Citizen Survey conducted by the City and County Auditors. Data is presented for 1994 only.

Citizens were asked the following question on the survey: "Overall, how good a job do you think the City and County are doing at providing government services?" Citizens were given five categories of responses ranging from "very good" to "very bad". See Benchmark #61 for a description of the sampling areas and weighting characteristics.

**Graph 8:  
Percentage of Citizens Who Feel  
Government is Doing a Good Job  
at Providing Services in 1994**



**Source:** 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).

# Dollars Spent for Government

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## **Benchmark #82: Per capita dollars spent for City and County government.**

**Purpose:** This data is intended to indicate a certain level of efficiency in the delivery of local government services. Measurement of government efficiency is difficult, because of the various factors involved in computing expenditures and services. Although this benchmark speaks only to City and County government, we have included data for some other taxing entities in Multnomah County.

There are forty (40) local and regional governments and special districts with taxing and expenditure authority in Multnomah County. Citizens throughout the county are taxed by two or three governments and up to six special districts, depending on the location of their residences. As the benchmarks program evolves, with local jurisdictions in the county targeted for our first outreach efforts in 1995, we will strive to more clearly define efficiency within the county.

### **Trends:**

- Although per capita expenditures of Multnomah County and City of Portland governments have risen in the past decade, increases since 1990 have slowed significantly. Tables 9 and 10 represent recent histori-

**Table 9  
Per Capita Expenditures  
City of Portland Government**

Fiscal Year	City of Portland
1994-95 (Budgeted)	\$1,228
1993-94 (Revised)	\$1,228
1992-93 (Actual)	\$1,259
1991-92 (Actual)	\$1,104
1990-91 (Actual)	\$1,108
1985-86 (Actual)	\$806

**Source:** City of Portland, Office of Finance and Administration, 1994.



cal expenditures of the city and county. Table 11 presents the 1993-94 expenditures for the other larger taxing jurisdictions in the county .

- As a percent of income, property tax in Multnomah County has actually shown a marked decrease since 1990. Table 12 details that reduction.

**Data Description:** These data are drawn from two sources: the City of Portland, Office of Finance and Administration, and the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC). The later is a legislatively mandated entity that reviews and assists the financial activities of all local governments within Multnomah County. Because the basis for their data is slightly different, numbers from the two sources are not always comparable.

**Table 10**  
**Per Capita Expenditures**  
**Multnomah County Government**

Fiscal Year	Multnomah County
1993-94 (Budgeted)	\$699
1992-93 (Actual)	\$555
1991-92 (Actual)	\$519
1990-91 (Actual)	\$471
1985-86 (Actual)	\$239

Source: Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission, 1994.

# Dollars Spent for Government (Continued)

**Table 11**  
**Per Capita Expenditures By Selected**  
**Multnomah County Taxing Authorities 1993-94**

For Residents of City of Portland	Expenditures
Tri-Met	\$148
Port of Portland	\$107
Metro	\$99
Portland Community College	\$140
Educational Service District	\$73
Portland Public Schools	\$920

Source: Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission, 1994.

**Table 12**  
**Per Capita Property Tax as a Percent of Income**  
**Multnomah County**

Fiscal Year	Overall Per Capita Tax	Per Capita Tax as % of Income
1994-95	\$919	4.22%
1993-94	\$957	4.39%
1992-93	\$1,013	4.66%
1991-92	\$1,047	5.33%
1990-91	\$1,151	6.04%
1989-90	\$1,068	5.88%
1988-89	\$1,002	6.01%
1987-88	\$969	6.22%
1986-87	\$895	5.96%
1985-86	\$843	5.81%
1984-85	\$739	5.30%

Source: Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission, 1994.



# Neighborhood Safety

## ***Urgent Benchmark #84: Percentage of citizens who feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood during the day and night.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark evaluates citizens' perception of safety in their neighborhoods. By monitoring this benchmark, we will learn if citizens feel threatened or secure in their community.

### **Trends:**

- The perception of safety improved slightly from 1991 to 1994 for City of Portland citizens. As Table 13 shows, 77% of citizens feel safe walking during the day in 1991. This percentage increased to 81% in 1994. Similarly, the percentage of citizens feeling safe walking during the night increased from 34% in 1991 to 36% in 1994.
- Graph 9 shows a breakdown of the data according to neighborhood coalitions and other areas in Multnomah County in 1994. Southwest citizens have the highest percentage (92%) of citizens who feel safe walking during the day in their neighborhood. In contrast, 70% of Northeast citizens feel safe walking alone

**Table 13**  
**Percentage of Portland Citizens Who Feel Safe Walking in Their Neighborhood During the Day and Night**

Rating	City of Portland			
	1991	1992	1993	1994
<b>Feeling Safe During the Day (Very Safe + Safe):</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>81%</b>
Very safe	32%	36%	34%	35%
Safe	45%	45%	46%	46%
Neither safe nor unsafe	15%	13%	14%	14%
Unsafe	6%	5%	5%	4%
Very Unsafe	2%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Feeling Safe During the Night (Very Safe + Safe):</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>36%</b>
Very safe	8%	10%	9%	8%
Safe	26%	28%	26%	28%
Neither safe nor unsafe	24%	22%	23%	25%
Unsafe	26%	26%	27%	26%
Very Unsafe	16%	14%	15%	13%

**Source:** 1991, 1992, 1993 Portland Citizen Survey (City Auditor). 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).

# Neighborhood Safety (Continued)

during the day. When night falls, however, this percentage drops to 22%.

- Table 14 shows the percentages of citizens who feel safe during the day for the City of Portland and other areas in Multnomah County. In addition, the entire county of Multnomah is presented in the "total" column. In Multnomah County, 82% feel safe walking during the day. This percentage drops to 38% at night.

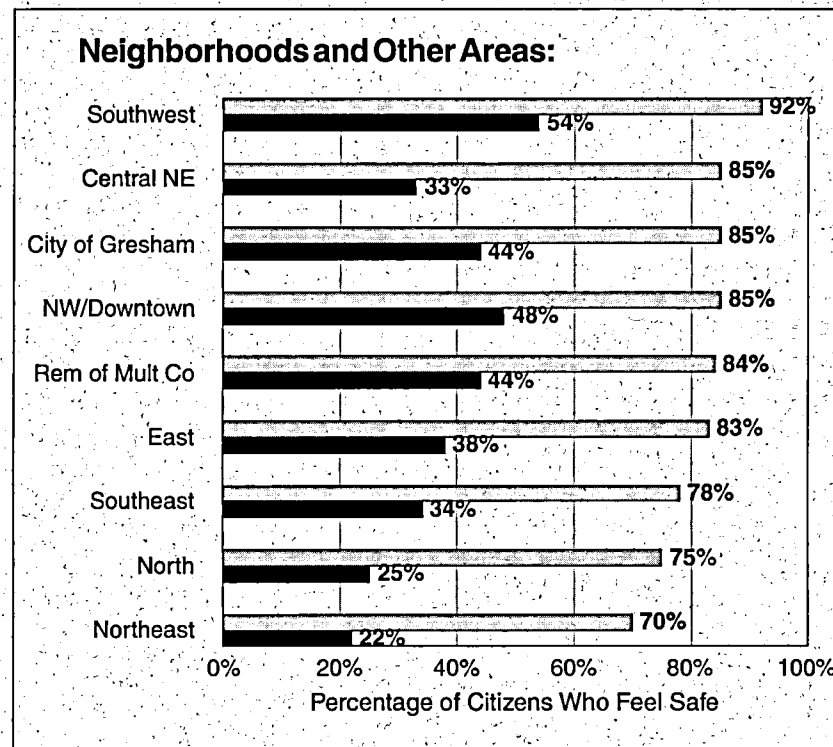
## Data Description:

The Citizen Survey conducted by the City and County Auditors has two questions relating to this benchmark. The questions are as follows:

- How safe would you feel walking alone during the day in your neighborhood?
- How safe would you feel walking alone at night in your neighborhood?

The response for this question ranges from "very safe" to "very unsafe." See Benchmark #61 for a description of the sampling areas and weighting characteristics.

**Graph 9:  
Percentage of Citizens in 1994 Who Feel Safe Walking  
in Their Neighborhood During the Day and Night**



Source: 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).



**Table 14**  
**Percentage of Citizens Who Feel Safe Walking in Their**  
**Neighborhood During the Day and Night in 1994**

Rating	City of Portland	City of Gresham	Remainder of Multnomah County	Total Multnomah County
<b>Feeling Safe During the Day (Very Safe + Safe):</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>82%</b>
Very safe	35%	36%	42%	35%
Safe	46%	48%	42%	47%
Neither safe nor unsafe	14%	11%	13%	13%
Unsafe	4%	4%	2%	4%
Very Unsafe	1%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Feeling Safe During the Night (Very Safe + Safe):</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>38%</b>
Very safe	8%	6%	14%	8%
Safe	28%	37%	30%	30%
Neither safe nor unsafe	25%	23%	24%	25%
Unsafe	26%	25%	23%	25%
Very Unsafe	13%	9%	9%	12%

**Source:** 1994 Portland/Multnomah County Citizen Survey (Joint City and County Auditors).

# Domestic Violence

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## ***Urgent Benchmark #86: Number of reported incidents of domestic violence by age (children and elderly) including families repeatedly victimized.***

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark measures the emotional health and well-being of citizens in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. By examining the incidence of family violence, we can better target support to the family unit.

**Data Description:** This data has four components described as follows:

- A. Children abused and neglected per 1,000 people under 18.
- B. Spouses or domestic associates abused per 1,000 people.
- C. Elderly abused per 1,000 people.
- D. Families repeatedly victimized by such incidents.

Currently, there are several organizations which collect data on family abuse. However, we are unable to verify the most representative data.

# Crimes Against People

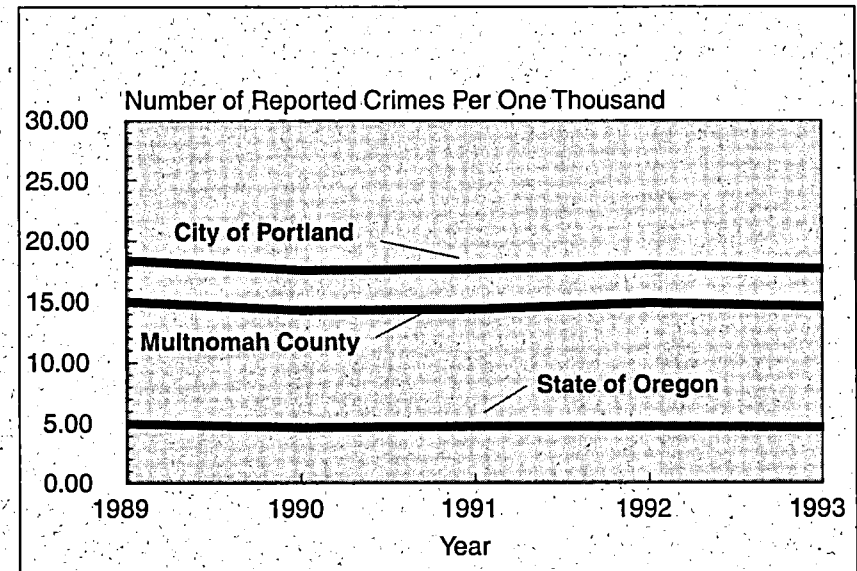
**Urgent Benchmark #87: Number of reported crimes against people per 1,000 population. (These crimes include murder, rape, robbery, kidnapping, assault.)**

**Purpose:** This urgent benchmark focuses on the extent of serious crimes in the City of Portland and Multnomah County. By monitoring this benchmark of public safety, we can assess the distribution of resources intended to reduce serious crimes.

## Trends:

- As seen in Graph 10, there are more crimes against people per 1,000 population in the City of Portland compared to Multnomah County and the State of Oregon.
- Table 15 shows that crime rates in the City of Portland are roughly three times higher than the State of Oregon.
- The crime rate per 1,000 population has declined for all three government jurisdictions in the five year period (1989-1993).

**Graph 10:  
Number of Reported Crimes Against  
People Per 1,000 Population**



Source: Oregon Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS).

## *Crimes Against People (Continued)*

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**Data Description:** Data is provided from the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS). Each month, the number of reported crimes and arrests from each police department throughout Oregon are submitted to LEDS. Data is then reported on a quarterly basis. We looked at the following crimes for data on this benchmark: willful murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In the future, kidnapping will be included as a measure of this benchmark.



**Table 15**  
**The Number of Reported Crimes Against People per 1,000 Population**

	City of Portland					Multnomah County					State of Oregon				
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Willful Murder	38	29	50	46	58	48	42	56	46	61	128	110	129	137	141
Forcible Rape	415	424	464	490	479	499	489	535	575	564	1,311	1330	1,552	1,566	1,544
Robbery	2,699	2,556	2,746	2,706	2,323	2,891	2,712	2,938	2,923	2,485	4,306	4,130	4,404	4,518	3,945
Aggravated Assault	4,932	4,838	4,881	5,167	5,603	5,467	5,273	5,305	5,669	6,028	8,859	8,832	8,671	8,917	9,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,084</b>	<b>7,847</b>	<b>8,141</b>	<b>8,409</b>	<b>8,463</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>8,516</b>	<b>8,834</b>	<b>9,213</b>	<b>9,138</b>	<b>14,604</b>	<b>14,402</b>	<b>14,756</b>	<b>15,138</b>	<b>15,209</b>
Total Population	432,175	437,319	453,065	458,275	471,325	581,000	583,500	600,000	605,000	615,000	2,791,000	2,884,000	2,930,000	2,979,000	3,038,000
Rate per 1,000 population	18.70	17.94	17.97	18.35	17.96	15.33	14.60	14.72	15.23	14.86	5.23	4.99	5.04	5.08	5.01

Source: Oregon Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS), *Report of Criminal Offenses and Arrests, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993.*

# 1995 Benchmarks

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In this section, we present the 1995 Benchmarks according to eight clusters. The clusters are categories intended to arrange the benchmarks into similar subject areas. Each benchmark is numbered according to its

placement in the January 1994 Annual Report. In addition, the benchmarks are cross-referenced with the State of Oregon (as listed in the 1993 Report to the Legislature) and Multnomah County.

<input type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged Citizens .....	47
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity .....	49
<input type="checkbox"/> Educated Citizens .....	51
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Support .....	52
<input type="checkbox"/> Government Performance .....	53
<input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare .....	54
<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Livability .....	55
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety .....	57



# 1995 Benchmarks

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## ***Disadvantaged Citizens:***

6. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of citizens with incomes above 100% of the federal poverty level broken down by ethnicity. (*State of Oregon 191, Multnomah County 34*)
  30. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of children 0-17 living above 100% of the poverty level broken down by age and ethnicity. (*State of Oregon 3, Multnomah County 35*)
  31. Percentage of children who were homeless at some time in the last year. (*State of Oregon 6*)
  47. Percentage of citizens who are mentally ill living in housing of their choice with adequate support. (*State of Oregon 99, Multnomah County 14*)
  48. Percentage of citizens who are mentally ill who are employed. (*State of Oregon 100, Multnomah County 15*)
  49. Percentage of citizens who are mentally ill living above the poverty level. (*State of Oregon 101, Multnomah County 16*)
  50. Percentage of citizens with developmental disabilities living in the housing of their choice with adequate support. (*State of Oregon 102, Multnomah County 17*)
  51. Percentage of citizens with developmental disabilities who are employed. (*State of Oregon 103, Multnomah County 18*)
  52. Percentage of citizens with developmental disabilities living above the poverty level. (*State of Oregon 104, Multnomah County 19*)
  53. Percentage of citizens with physical disabilities living in housing of their choice with adequate support. (*State of Oregon 105, Multnomah County 20*)
  54. Percentage of citizens with physical disabilities who are employed. (*State of Oregon 106, Multnomah County 21*)
  55. Percentage of citizens with physical disabilities living above the poverty level. (*State of Oregon 107, Multnomah County 22*)
-

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## ***Disadvantaged Citizens - (Continued):***

- 56. Percentage of elderly living in the least restrictive setting, either in their own home or in an alternative home setting. (*Multnomah County 13*)
- 58. Percentage of home owners and renters below median income spending less than 30% of their household income on housing (including utilities: gas, electric, water, garbage, sewer, phone). (*State of Oregon 143,144; Multnomah County 25*)
- 59. Number of citizens who were homeless at some time in the last year. (*State of Oregon 145, Multnomah County 24*)
- 98. Number of very-low income homeowners in Multnomah County spending 30% or more of total monthly income for housing. (*State of Oregon 144*)
- 99. Percentage of households living above 125% of the Federal Poverty level. (*State of Oregon 192, Multnomah County 37*)

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## ***Economic Prosperity:***

1. Per capita income as a percentage of U.S. real per capita income. (*State of Oregon 185*)
  2. Per capita income as a percentage of Oregon's real per capita income broken down by ethnicity. (*State of Oregon 186*)
  3. **Urgent Benchmark:** Average annual payroll per non-farm worker. (*State of Oregon 190, Multnomah County 33*)
  4. Per capita income.
  5. Annual total payroll.
  6. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of citizens with incomes above 100% of the federal poverty level. (*State of Oregon 191, Multnomah County 34*)
  7. Total employment (in thousands) broken down by ethnicity.
  8. Unemployment rate (as compared to the Portland Metropolitan area) broken down by ethnicity. (*State of Oregon 197*)
  9. Percentage of income from goods and services sold outside of the United States.
  10. Percentage of income from goods and services sold outside the Portland Metropolitan region.
  11. Number of small business that fail in one year, two years, and five years.
  12. Percentage of employer payroll dedicated to training and education.
  13. Percentage of 25 year olds with a certificate granted from education and training programs.
  14. Percentage of employees working in firms which train over 50% of their workforce 20 hours or more annually in work skills or work processes.
  15. Percentage of high school students who are engaged in Certificate of Advanced Mastery programs that involve work place experience.
-

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## *Economic Prosperity - (Continued)*

16. Number of U.S., Canadian and Mexican metropolitan areas (over 1 million population) served by non-stop flights to and from any Oregon commercial airport. *(State of Oregon 238)*
17. Number of international cities of over 1 million population (outside Canada & Mexico) served by direct or non-stop flights to and from any Oregon commercial airport. *(State of Oregon 239)*
18. Portland transpacific container export rates compared to those in Seattle & Tacoma (percent greater or less than). *(State of Oregon 241)*
19. Percentage of government permits issued within the target time period or less including business licenses, building permits, water, plumbing/electrical/heating & ventilating, parking, street use, and conditional use/zoning/variances. *(State of Oregon 257, Multnomah County 79)*
20. Percentage and number of industrial site acreage identified in comprehensive plans that is actually suitable for development.
21. Total taxes per capita as percentage of U.S. average. *(State of Oregon 250)*
22. Total taxes per \$1,000 income. *(Multnomah County 253)*
23. Percentage of federal, state & local business taxes and fees per dollars of business income.
24. Real per capita capital outlays for public infrastructure. *(State of Oregon 255, Multnomah County 78)*
73. Percentage of total non-manufacturing jobs in the Portland Metropolitan area located in downtown Portland.
75. Annual per capita public and private financial support for the arts in the region including libraries, museums, visual arts, and performing arts.
100. Average wages per employee in firms with fewer than twenty employees in Multnomah County.

## ***Educated Citizens:***

- 25. Percentage of children entering kindergarten meeting specific development standards for their age. Development includes cognitive, language & literacy, physical well-being, and social/emotional development. (*State of Oregon 16, Multnomah County 40*)
- 37. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of students who achieve established skill levels broken down by ethnicity and grade level. (*State of Oregon 18-22*)
- 38. High school graduation rate. (*State of Oregon 47, Multnomah County 38*)
- 39. Percentage of adults who have completed at least one year of educational programs after secondary school broken down by ethnicity. (*State of Oregon 48*)
- 40. Percentage of adults who completed a certified apprenticeship program. (*State of Oregon 52*)
- 41. Percentage of adults who have completed an associate degree in professional-technical education broken down by ethnicity. (*State of Oregon P49*)
- 42. Percentage of people leaving post-secondary coursework that possess skill sets to match work force needs. (*Multnomah County 39*)
- 43. Percentage of adults who possess English literacy skills broken down by prose, document, quantitative, and information/technology literacy. (*State of Oregon 56-59, Multnomah County 10*)

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## **Family Support:**

- 28. Percentage of infants whose mothers did not use the following: Illicit drugs during pregnancy, alcohol during pregnancy (self-reported by mother), and tobacco during pregnancy (self-reported by mother). (*State of Oregon 11, Multnomah County 3*)
- 32. Percentage of child care facilities which meet established basic standards. (*State of Oregon 182, Multnomah County 27*)
- 33. Number of identified child care slots available for every 100 children under age 13. (*State of Oregon 183, Multnomah County 28*)
- 34. Percentage of students free of involvement with alcohol in the previous month broken down by the eighth and eleventh grades. (*State of Oregon 31, Multnomah County 29*)
- 35. Percentage of students free of involvement with illicit drugs in the previous month broken down by the eighth and eleventh grades. (*State of Oregon 32, Multnomah County 30*)
- 36. Percentage of students free of involvement with tobacco in the previous month broken down by

the eighth and eleventh grades. (*State of Oregon 33*)

- 86. **Urgent Benchmark:** Number of reported incidents of domestic violence by age (children and elderly) including families repeatedly victimized. These include the following:
  - A. Children abused and neglected per 1,000 people under 18. (*State of Oregon 4a, Multnomah County 45*)
  - B. Spouses or domestic associates abused per 1,000 adults. (*State of Oregon 5, Multnomah County 46*)
  - C. Elderly abuse per 1,000 people. (*State of Oregon 97, Multnomah County 47*)
  - D. Families repeatedly victimized by such incidents.
- 101. Number of identified subsidized child care slots available for every 100 children under age 13 who are financially eligible.
- 102. Average total family income in Multnomah County.

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## ***Government Performance:***

- 74. Percentage of eligible citizens who vote. (*State of Oregon 172, Multnomah County 74*)
- 76. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of citizens who feel government is doing a good job at providing services. (*Multnomah County 80*)
- 77. Percentage of citizen volunteers in a governmental advisory capacity who are satisfied that their recommendations were carefully and respectfully considered. (*Multnomah County 83*)
- 78. Percentage of citizens who volunteer at least 50 hours of their time per year to civic, community, or non-profit activities. (*State of Oregon 174, Multnomah County 82*)
- 79. Percentage of government organizations that adopt benchmarks, incorporate them into budget and/or planning processes, and collect supporting data. (*Multnomah County 85*)
- 80. Percentage of community organizations that adopt benchmarks, incorporate them into budget and/or planning processes, and collect supporting data.
- 81. General obligation bond rating (Standard & Poor's). (*State of Oregon 259, Multnomah County 77*)
- 82. **Urgent Benchmark:** Per capita dollars spent for city and county government. (*Multnomah County 76*)
- 83. Direct government service delivery expenses as a percentage of total government expenditures.
- 103. Percentage of median household income spent for taxes.

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## **Healthcare:**

26. Pregnancy rate per 1,000 females ages 10-17 broken down by ethnicity. (*State of Oregon 1, Multnomah 1*)
27. Percentage of healthy birthweight babies broken down by ethnicity. (*State of Oregon 10*)
29. Percentage of two year olds who are adequately immunized. (*State of Oregon 14, Multnomah County 4*)
44. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of citizens who have economic access to health care. (*State of Oregon 177, Multnomah County 44*)
46. Annual percentage and number of people with early diagnosis of HIV. (*State of Oregon 75, Multnomah County 6*)



## ***Neighborhood Livability:***

- 57. Acres of parks and protected green space per 1,000 citizens. (*State of Oregon 127, Multnomah County 69*)
- 60. Percentage of population that lives within one half mile walk of all of the following: park/open space, transit service, elementary service, neighborhood commercial node, bike path, and walkways.
- 61. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of people who rate their neighborhood livability high.
- 62. Percentage of people who commute (one-way) within 30 minutes between where they live and work. (*State of Oregon 136, Multnomah County 72*)
- 63. Percentage of people who commute to and from work and use multiple modes of transportation for commuting. (*Multnomah County 73*)
- 64. Percentage of streets rated acceptably clean. (*Multnomah County 68*)
- 65. Percentage of surfaces where there is little or no graffiti.
- 66. Number of days per year the community meets government ambient air quality standards.
- 67. Carbon dioxide emissions as a percentage of 1990 emissions. (*State of Oregon 109*)
- 68. Percentage of samples per year of the community's river and streams that meet government in-stream water quality standards. (*Multnomah County 66*)
- 69. Annual water usage per capita broken down by industrial, residential, and commercial categories.

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## *Neighborhood Livability - (Continued)*

- 70. Number of energy units used per capita broken down by industrial, residential, and commercial categories.
- 71. Pounds of solid waste landfilled per capita per year. (*State of Oregon 121, Multnomah 67*)
- 72. Percentage of Portland metropolitan area population growth since 1990 occurring within the City of Portland broken down by special needs.
- 104. Percentage of citizens who rate their streets acceptably clean. (*Multnomah 68*)

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## **Public Safety:**

84. **Urgent Benchmark:** Percentage of citizens who feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood during the day. (*Multnomah County 49*)
85. Number of reported crimes against people or property motivated by prejudice broken down by ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and national origin. (*State of Oregon 91*)
87. **Urgent Benchmark:** Number of reported crimes against people per 1,000 population. Crimes include murder, rape, robbery, kidnapping, and assault broken down by age and neighborhood coalition. (*State of Oregon 155, Multnomah County 50*)
88. Number of reported crimes against property per 1,000 population. Crimes include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, and vandalism broken down by age and neighborhood coalition. (*State of Oregon 156, Multnomah County 51*)
89. Percentage of arrestees testing positive for alcohol or illicit drugs in Multnomah County. (*Multnomah County 57*)
90. Firearm injuries and fatalities rate per 1,000 population broken down by age. (*Multnomah County 52*)
91. Number of crime victims per 1,000 population broken down by type of crime (person or property), age status (juvenile or adult), and ethnicity. (*Multnomah County 60*)
92. Percentage of adults who use illegal drugs. (*Multnomah County 31*)
93. Percentage of felons who commit new felonies within three years of re-entry into the community. (*State of Oregon 159, Multnomah County 56*)
-

# 1995 Benchmarks

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## ***Public Safety - (Continued):***

94. Percentage of diverted offenders who commit the same type of offense within one year after completing the diversion program broken down by substance abuse, alcohol, and domestic violence. *(Multnomah County 55)*
95. Percentage of residences, institutions, and businesses which are prepared for an emergency by being able to sustain themselves for 72 hours. *(Multnomah County 61)*
96. Property loss and fatalities, due to emergency/disasters broken down by number of lives lost per 1,000 and dollar value of loss as a percentage of structure/property exposed.
97. Percentage of emergency service agencies (defined in ORS 401) with emergency plans and emergency response procedures in place that are regularly exercised and updated per federal standards.

# 1995 Progress Board Work Plan

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**Goal #1: Tell the Benchmarks story in order to stimulate intergovernmental and private sector collaboration in the achievement of the Urgent Benchmarks.**

**Activities:**

- A. Conduct Benchmarks Data Network meetings around the five Urgent Benchmark Clusters.
  - Governance
  - Public Safety
  - Health Care
  - Nurturing Stable Families
  - Livable Communities
- B. Begin the Partnership Initiative, developing commitment to the Benchmarks process and undertaking responsibility for the accomplishment of the Benchmarks. In 1995 the following groups will be targeted:
  - Local Governance Partnership Initiative
  - Business Partnership Initiative
  - Community Development Partnership Initiative

- C. Represent Progress Board interests on the Oregon Option.
- D. Institute the Annual Benchmarks/Government Innovation Awards Program.
- E. Reexamine membership of the Progress Board.

**Goal #2: Develop local capacity to implement benchmarking and other government innovations.**

**Activities:**

- A. Develop Progress Board staff expertise in promising governmental practices, particularly those relating to benchmarking.
- B. Build and maintain resource materials and a bibliography on benchmarking.
- C. Assist staff of Multnomah County cities and county in implementation of the Benchmarks.

**Goal #3: Refine and revise the Benchmarks and their supporting data bases.**

In 1994, the Portland-Multnomah Progress Board published 97 benchmarks for the City of Portland and Multnomah County. This listing has grown to 104. The following lists benchmarks added during 1994:

- 98. Number of very-low income homeowners in Multnomah County spending 30% or more of total monthly income for housing.
- 99. Percentage of household living above 125% of the Federal Poverty level.
- 100. Average wages per employee in firms with fewer than twenty employees in Multnomah County.
- 101. Number of identified subsidized child care slots available for every 100 children under age 13 who are financially eligible.
- 102. Average total family income in Multnomah County.
- 103. Percentage of median household income spent for taxes.
- 104. Percentage of citizens who rate their streets acceptably clean.

The wording of several urgent benchmarks was changed to reflect the data. The following listing shows the original wording as well as the change in wording for this report:

- 61. **Original wording:** Percentage of people who feel a sense of community in their neighborhood.  
**New wording:** Percentage of people who rate their neighborhood livability high.
- 76. **Original wording:** Percentage of citizens who are satisfied that government services are necessary, responsive and cost-effective.  
**New wording:** Percentage of citizens who feel government is doing a good job at providing services.
- 82. **Original wording:** Per capita cost of government.  
**New wording:** Per capita dollars spent for city and county government.
- 84. **Original wording:** Percentage of citizens who feel safe and secure.  
**New wording:** Percentage of citizens who feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood during the day or night.



# *Comment Card*

We welcome your comments about this report. If you would like us to contact you, please include your address and telephone number below.

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1220 S.W. 5th Avenue, Room 310  
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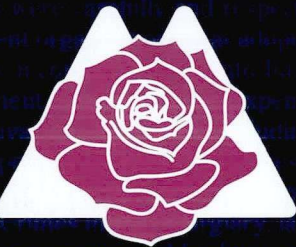
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• Number of days per year with at least one day with smoke or ashfall from volcanic activity • Number of days per year with at least one day with smoke or ashfall from volcanic activity • Number of days per year with at least one day with smoke or ashfall from volcanic activity • Number of days per year with at least one day with smoke or ashfall from volcanic activity • Number of days per year with at least one day with smoke or ashfall from volcanic activity

• Percentage of population that lives within a half mile walk of all of the following: public open space, sports or recreation facilities, shopping facilities, public transit, and... (text continues with similar phrasing) ... • Percentage of population that lives within a half mile walk of all of the following: public open space, sports or recreation facilities, shopping facilities, public transit, and...



Portland-Multnomah Progress Board • 1220 S.W. 5th Avenue, Room 310 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 823-6990 • FAX: (503) 823-6994

# About Metro

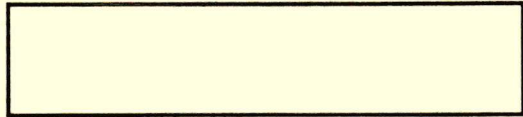
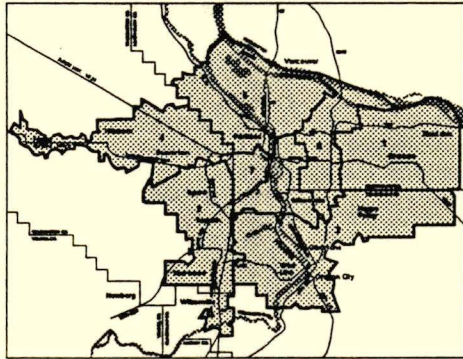
Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

Metro is responsible for growth management, transportation and land-use planning; solid waste management; operation of the Metro Washington Park Zoo; regional parks and greenspaces programs; and technical services to local governments. Through the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission, Metro manages the Oregon Convention Center, Civic Stadium, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Expo Center.



**METRO**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2637



**METRO COUNCIL NEWS**

# From your Metro Councilor Ruth McFarland



Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas, Metro is responsible for growth management, transportation and land-use planning; solid waste management; operation of the Metro Washington Park Zoo; regional parks and greenspaces programs; and technical services to local governments. Through the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission, Metro manages the Oregon Convention Center, Civic Stadium, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Expo Center.

Metro is governed by an executive officer and a seven-member council. The executive officer is elected regionwide; councilors are elected by district.

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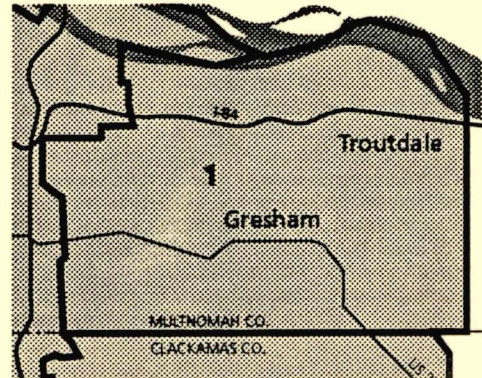
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Metro is responsible for growth management, transportation and land-use planning;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth McFarland'.

Ruth McFarland  
Metro Council District 1





METRO

# Council News

Vol. 1

Spring 1995

Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

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For more information about Metro or to schedule a speaker for a community group, call 797-1510.

Executive Officer  
Mike Burton

Auditor  
Alexis Dow

District 1  
Ruth McFarland

District 2  
Don Morissette

District 3  
Jon Kvistad

District 4  
Susan McLain

District 5  
Ed Washington

District 6  
Rod Monroe

District 7  
Patricia McCaig



## Open Space Bond Measure: What next?

Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas,

Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

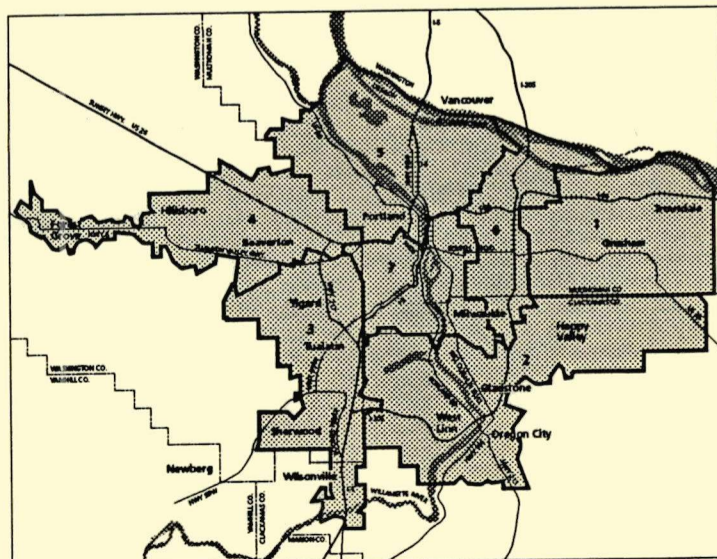
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## The 1995-95 budget adoption process

Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

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## How your council works

Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

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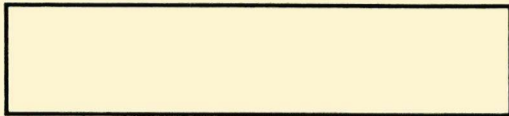


## Urban reserves

Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission, Metro manages the Oregon Convention Center, Civic Stadium, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Expo Center.

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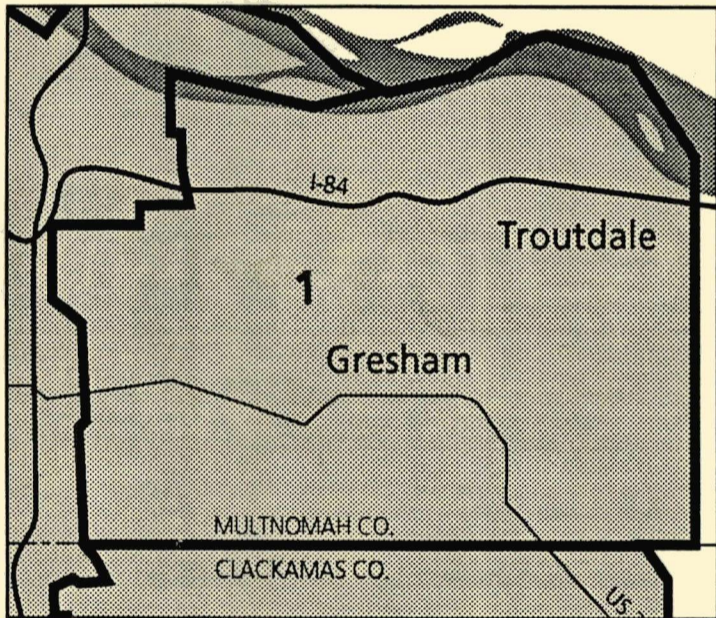


Portland, OR 97232-2637  
600 NE Grand Ave.

METRO



# Metro Council News



## **From your Metro Councilor Ruth McFarland**

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Ruth McFarland  
Metro Council District 1

## **District introduction**

Metro is the directly elected regional government that serves more than 1.2 million residents in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties and the 24 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

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TO: Ruth McFarland, Presiding Officer  
FROM: Patricia McCaig  
DATE: May 23, 1995  
Re: Finance Committee Schedule

I have met with Jennifer Simms regarding a possible meeting schedule for the Finance Committee. We currently have some items which will need Council approval before June 30th. The items will be on the Council agenda for first reading on June 1. I would like to schedule a Finance Committee meeting for 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8.

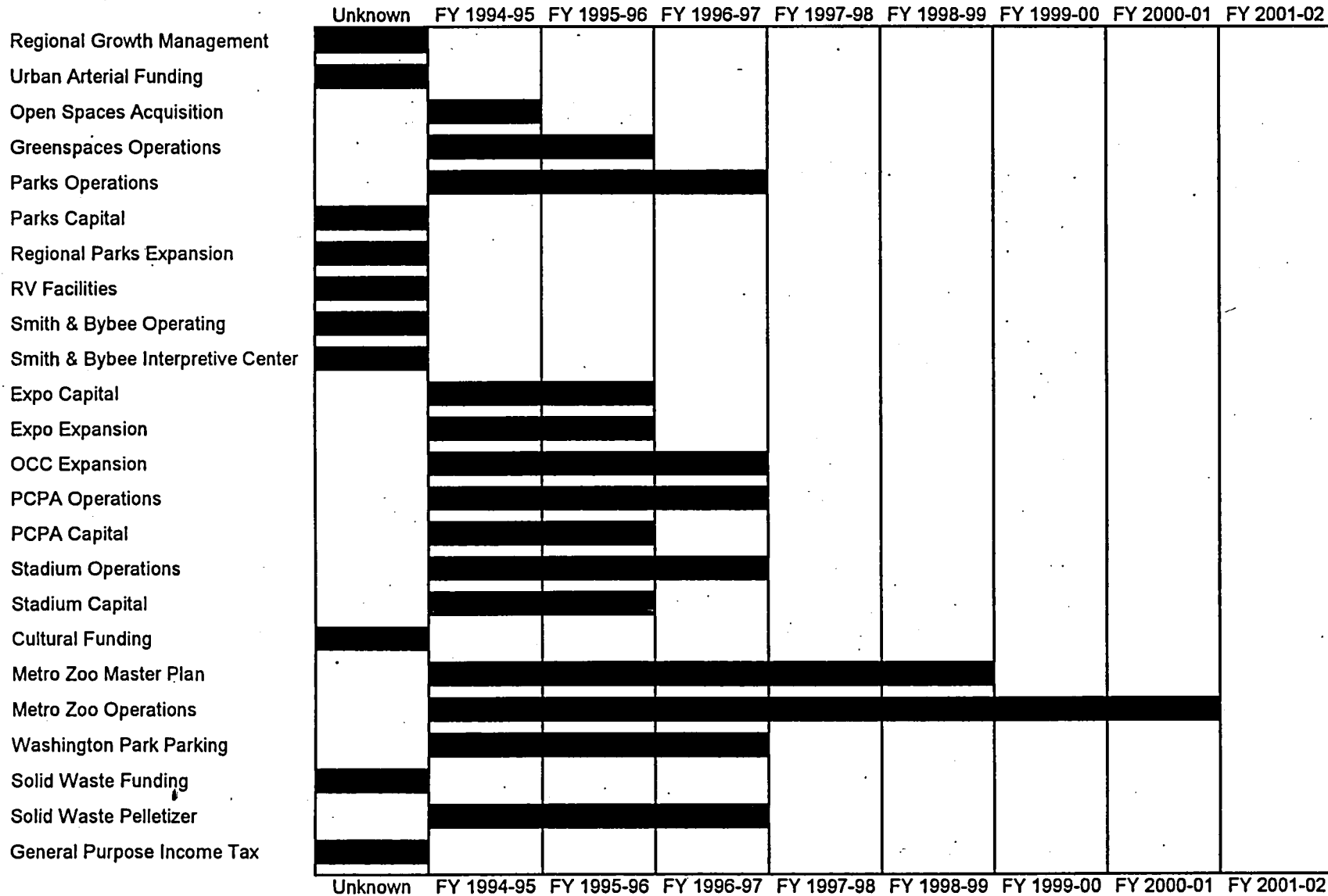
I would also like to request that we establish a regular meeting date for the Committee. My suggestion would be the first Thursday of every month, starting at 12:30 p.m. If we need additional meeting dates during the month we can make that determination at the first meeting of the month and schedule accordingly.

The dates would be:

June 8	12:00
(not the first Thursday because of existing conflicts)	
July 6	12:30
August 3	12:30
Sept 7	12:30
October 5	12:30
Nov 2	12:30
Dec 7	12:30

# Long Range Funding Issues Timeline

March 17, 1995



Note: Bar extends to the last time available for action (i.e. when funding runs out, etc.), or to estimated action date.



Metro

Financing Schedule

JUNE							JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
				1	2	3							1				1	2	3	4	5							1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
							30	31																					



# Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan

May, 1995

# WHITAKER PONDS CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

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May, 1995

*Cover Photo Courtesy of Steve Terrill*

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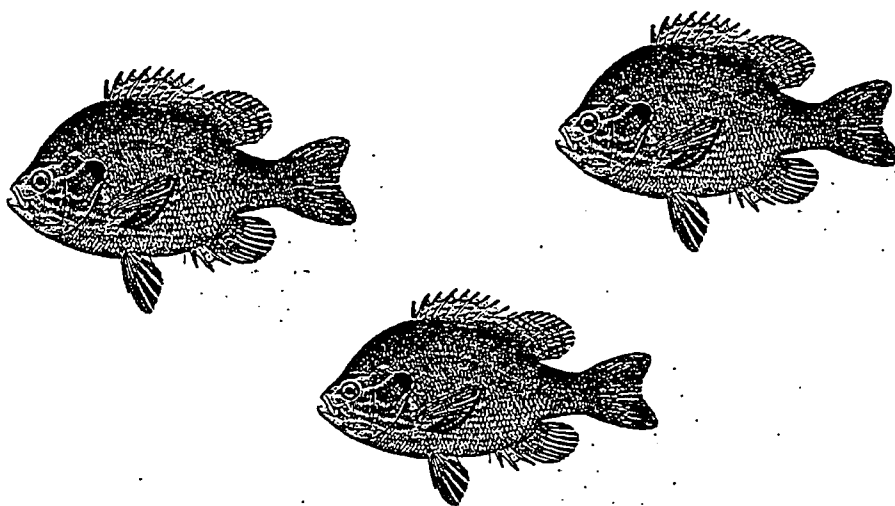
**Sally Creasman**  
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# I. Executive Summary



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Value of the Master Plan

The Master Plan crafted for Whitaker Ponds establishes a vision for the future which brings together diverse interest groups into a single effort to enhance and protect the ponds and their natural surroundings for passive enjoyment while continuing to provide little league activities. The Master Plan sets forth goals and priorities for implementation and provides direction to project partners, local citizens and service groups who wish to get involved in restoration efforts.

Protection and enhancement of this unique natural resource will provide numerous benefits to the community including: improved habitat for fish and wildlife, water quality improvement, stormwater management, opportunities for recreation, and environmental education and increased awareness and appreciation for natural systems. In addition, the ponds offer an important natural outlet for the park-deficient and densely populated northeast neighborhoods, and can provide local youth and adults with the opportunity to experience nature on a first-hand basis through activities such as fishing, wildlife identification, and site restoration projects.



### Components of The Master Plan

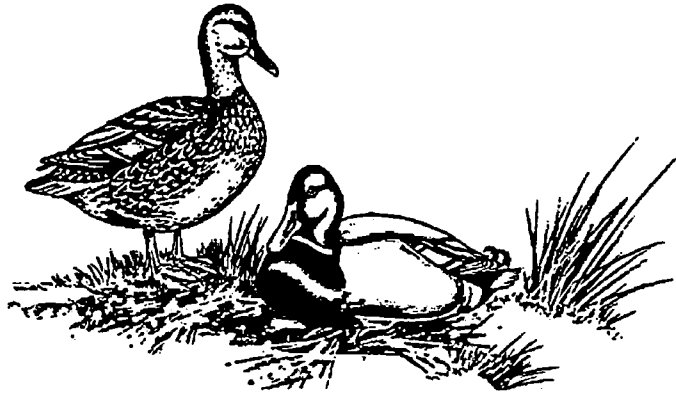
The concept Master Plan is described fully in Chapter IV. Key components include the following:

- Provision of a primary access to the site off 47th Avenue.
- Incorporation of water quality enhancement measures.
- Commitment to restoring and enhancing riparian and upland habitats.
- Expansion of emergent wetlands to attract wildlife.
- Provision of environmental education opportunities including signage and wildlife viewing areas.
- Provision of a buffer between industrial properties and recreational public use areas.
- Provision of a range of natural resource dependent recreational opportunities.
- Establishment of a warmwater fishery.
- Incorporation of a canoe/boat launch on the Whitaker Slough and access by the Multnomah County Drainage District for slough maintenance.
- Separation of active recreational uses on the School District property, and the passive uses on the north side of the ponds relating to natural resource enhancement and appreciation.
- Provision of a pedestrian trail system on the northern portion of the site, with viewpoints to the ponds and slough.
- Incorporation of an environmental learning center.
- Provision for an on-site resident ranger to increase security and safety.





## II. Introduction



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## INTRODUCTION

On an early Saturday in July, you and your friend decide to throw the fishing gear and binoculars in the car, put the canoe on top and head to the Whitaker Ponds Natural Area. In a few minutes you arrive at the Whitaker Ponds entrance at NE 47th Avenue and notice the early morning mist rising from the west pond. A family of cinnamon teal is busy searching the edge of the nearby Whitaker Slough for food. Dozens of swallows are swooping over the pond nabbing insects in the air.

The choice you face is to launch the canoe at the ramp and drift east on the Whitaker Slough through the verdant tunnel of cottonwoods and willows, or take the fishing gear and walk down the path to one of the angling clearings along the pond edge. Today the canoe will stay on the car and you head down the pond trail.

Before you know it, an hour has gone by, and the fishing has been pretty good. Across the ponds to the south the little league has started their day and the chatter of the young players and the cheers of spectators drift in and out. It doesn't get much better than this on a Saturday morning.

All of this and more is possible for generations to come if the community and project partners start now to work cooperatively together toward implementing the Whitaker Ponds Master Plan.



*Enjoying a summer morning on the West Pond. (Trust for Public Land Photo)*

## Project Context & Goals

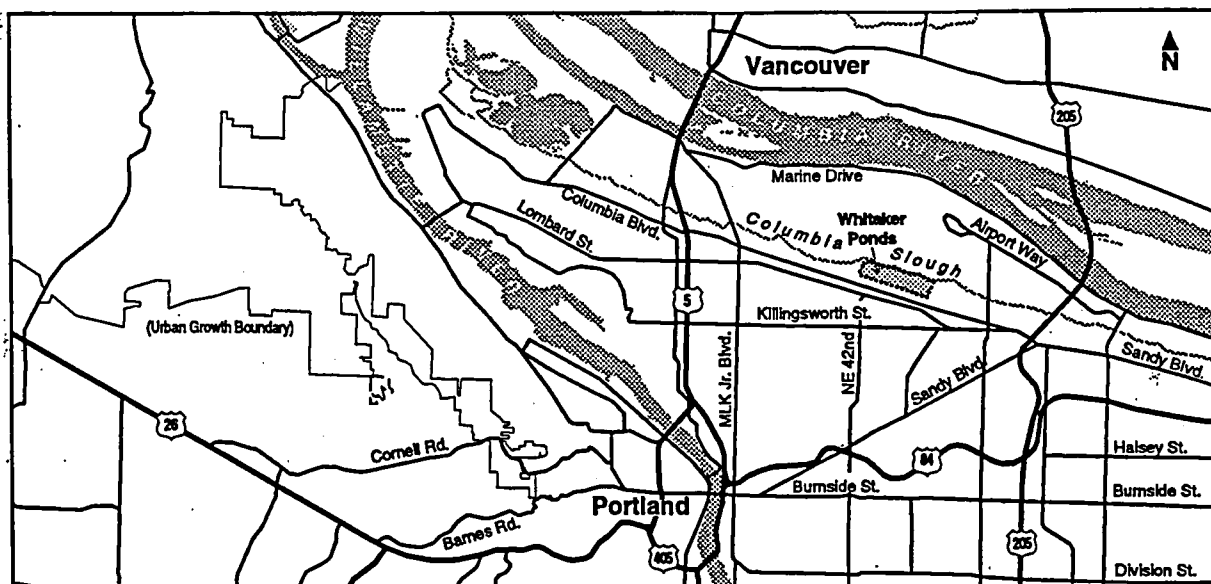
In an age where urban natural areas are rapidly being replaced by shopping centers and parking lots, the Whitaker Ponds site provides a natural jewel for the park-deficient portion of northeast Portland. This regionally significant natural area is unique because it has become surrounded by industrial development, yet is located close to densely populated areas where residents have little opportunity to experience the natural world.

The study area encompasses approximately 90 acres of publicly and privately owned land bordered by the Whitaker Slough to the north, NE 47th Avenue to the west, NE Columbia Boulevard to the south, and light industry to the east. Contained within this study area are two groundwater-fed ponds, five softball fields, the Whitaker Facility, several residential properties, six industrial tenants, and a five-acre scrap metal yard that Metro is negotiating to obtain. Surrounding the ponds is a zone of riparian vegetation and open fields providing valuable wildlife habitat for a host of waterfowl. Although much of this site has become degraded over the years, restoration efforts can turn this area into a valuable natural asset for the community.

Protection and enhancement of this unique natural area will provide the community with opportunities to view wildlife, increase their awareness of natural resources and wetland habitats, and participate in a variety of recreational activities including warmwater fishing. By restoring this degraded site in an environmentally sensitive manner, opportunities also exist to expand wildlife habitat and improve water quality in the ponds.

The following goals can be achieved by implementing this Master Plan:

- Restore the ponds and their surroundings to attract a more diverse and abundant wildlife and fisheries population
- Encourage environmental stewardship through school education programs and an on site environmental learning center
- Improve water quality to maintain a warmwater fishery
- Encourage public access by providing trails and wildlife viewing areas
- Insure compatibility between existing industrial and recreational activities and increased public use by providing permanent separation between the natural area



Vicinity Map

north of the ponds and active recreation and industrial uses to the south

- Negotiate with interested property owners for use of key parcels of land.

## Planning Background

A primary mission of Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, is to work cooperatively with the public to maintain the quality of life for the region by protecting urban natural areas for wildlife and people. The Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan of 1992 targeted the area surrounding Whitaker Ponds as a regionally significant greenspace in the Columbia Slough watershed.

In May of 1994, Metro entered into an agreement with Portland Public Schools, a major land owner in the planning area, that calls for Metro to lead the effort to develop a Master Plan that enhances and protects the Whitaker Ponds area for wildlife, while providing appropriate levels of recreation. The Master Plan will guide future restoration and public use of the ponds, and is intended to provide opportunities for environmental stewardship and education for generations to come. This proposed project is one of many ongoing projects and programs aimed at improving the overall health of the Columbia Slough watershed.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), and Multnomah County (through its Natural Areas Fund), are also partners in the project. The Trust for Public Land holds an option to purchase a 5-acre scrap metal yard in the northwest corner of the study area, and BES and Multnomah County have committed to providing the funds necessary to purchase the property. Acquisition of this property serves BES's goal of providing water quality improvement demonstration projects along the Columbia Slough, and meets the goals

of Multnomah County's Natural Area Protection and Management Plan. The Board of Multnomah County Commissioners also approved \$300,000 for acquisition of lands adjacent to the Whitaker Ponds, contingent upon Metro's Open Space, Parks and Streams Bond Measure passing in May of 1995.

One of the more unique project partners in this planning effort has been the EnviroCorps, the local branch of President Clinton's recently created national program called AmeriCorps. The AmeriCorps program was patterned after the Peace Corps and Vista. Portland's program provides young adults the opportunity to gain work experience and tuition credit through restoration efforts in urban areas. EnviroCorps members have been involved in numerous aspects of this project ranging from neighborhood canvassing and public workshops to site assessment and plan formulation. EnviroCorp's involvement provides an important link between past environmental restoration efforts at the ponds and the future ecological health and stewardship of the area. Members of EnviroCorps will implement components of the plan in the Spring of 1995 including planting, removal of undesirable plant species, and general clean up of the site.

In addition to the aforementioned project partners, several school and youth groups have participated in research or restoration activities at Whitaker Ponds. In the past few years, Metro's Greenspaces Department awarded restoration/enhancement grants to organizations such as Cascadia Quest, with a goal of providing young adults with experience in environmental education. In addition to the Metro funded projects, Grant and Madison high school students (Urban Rangers) and Sabin Elementary School students have conducted environmental education and stewardship projects at the ponds such as wildlife surveys and vegetation inventories.

## Public Involvement

A key component of any successful Master Plan is the involvement of members of the public that will be utilizing, enjoying, and managing the area. By incorporating the needs and concerns of all users and land owners, a plan can be formulated which sets an appropriate vision for the future and establishes a sense of pride in the community.

Due to the large number of private land owners within the planning area, it is crucial to obtain consensus among all interested parties and achieve balance between the concerns of industrial land owners and the anticipated increase in public access to the ponds. The planning process has allowed for numerous opportunities for the community, adjacent industrial property owners, and tenants, to express their concerns and desires. Public involvement was encouraged through the following activities:

- Creation of an extensive list of stakeholders to involve and inform about the project.
- Meeting notices mailed to stakeholders.
- Neighborhood canvassing of approximately 2000 homes and businesses by EnviroCorps members to inform them of upcoming public meetings.
- Two public meetings to receive input on project goals and concept designs for the study area.
- Individual meetings with property owners, industrial tenants, and recreational users around the ponds to discuss the nature of the Master Plan and to clearly understand their concerns.
- Establishment of a 7-member independent advisory panel consisting of landowners in the area, neighborhood associations, natural

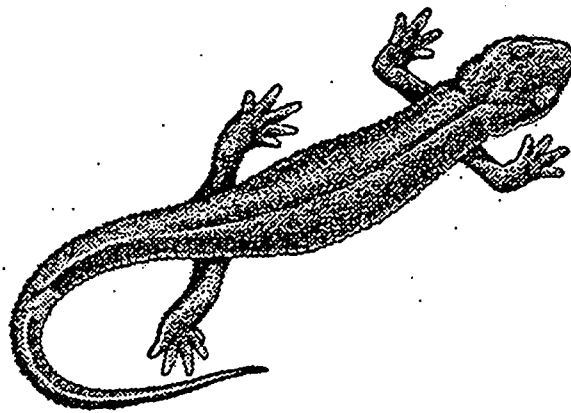


*EnviroCorps members removing blackberries*

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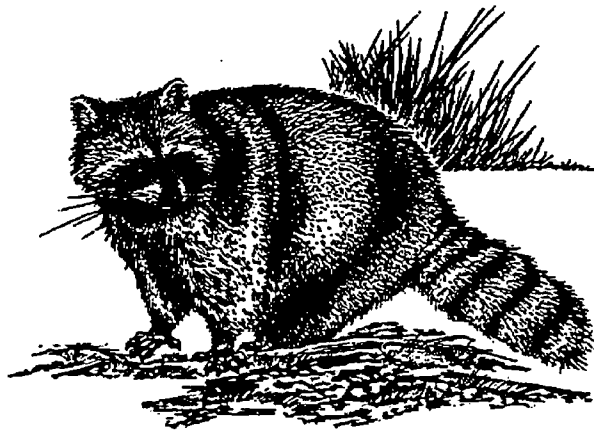
resource experts and educators. This panel was involved in all public meetings and provided Metro with their recommendation for a concept to be developed more fully as the final Master Plan.

- Presentations at the public meetings from community organizations and agencies that have a vested interest in the project, including Lakeside Little League, EnviroCorps, the Trust for Public Land, Portland Public Schools, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Concordia Neighborhood Association, and Cully Neighborhood Association.
- Distribution of the Draft Master Plan for public review and comment.
- Presentation of the final Master Plan to the Metro Council at a public hearing for their approval and adoption.
- Distribution of the adopted Master Plan to interested public.
- Numerous press articles informing the public of EnviroCorps' involvement in the project (see appendices).





### III. Existing Conditions





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## EXISTING CONDITIONS

### Location

The Whitaker Ponds study area consists of approximately 90 acres situated behind Portland Public School's Whitaker Facility near N.E. 47th Avenue and Columbia Boulevard. The Whitaker Slough, a branch of the Columbia Slough, forms the northern boundary and the ponds are connected to this waterway at the northwestern end of the west pond.

### Zoning

The study area is entirely within a heavy industrial zone. An Environmental Conservation overlay conserves the natural resources and resource values of the area around

the ponds. This overlay includes a 40-80 ft. wide corridor surrounding the pond, as well as the area between the Whitaker Slough and the ponds, as illustrated in the zoning map on page 13. The Master Plan has targeted the land falling within the environmental conservation zone for the recommended restoration and enhancement activities. The proposed activities are consistent with the type of uses allowed within a conservation overlay zone.

Project approval will be subject to environmental review by the City Planning Bureau to confirm that the proposed activities are consistent with the Environmental Zone Approval Criteria contained in Chapter 33.430.250 of the City's development code.



*Aerial View of the Whitaker Ponds Study Area*

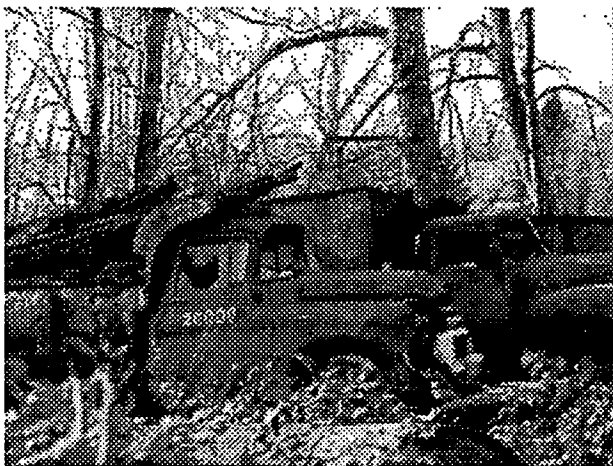
## Ownership

The 90 acre study area includes a mixture of public and private properties, along with the ponds and their natural surroundings, which comprise approximately 25 acres. The study area is predominately under private ownership and contains a variety of industrial tenants as illustrated in the ownership map on page 15. However, at the core of the study area lies a 21-acre tract of land belonging to the Portland Public Schools. This parcel contains the Whitaker Facility which is no longer used for student classrooms, and 5 baseball fields that are actively used by Lakeside Little League teams. Portland Public Schools support the use of their land for site restoration, environmental education, and stewardship, natural resource dependent recreational opportunities, and little league activities.

All of the remaining properties surrounding the ponds are privately owned, including one land-locked vacant parcel on the north side of the east pond.

A five-acre privately owned scrap metal yard is located off 47th Avenue between the Whitaker Slough and the northwest shore of the west pond. This operation contains old rusting cars, stacks of miscellaneous metals, creosote treated scrap wood, old tires, other debris, a house and several small storage sheds. Less than 20 feet of bank separates the scrap metal yard from the shoreline. The Trust for Public Land currently holds an option to purchase the property for Metro, pending results of Level I and Level II environmental testing of the soil and water quality. The operator of the scrap metal yard has agreed to remove all debris from the site as part of the sale agreement.

Several owner occupied residential properties lie along NE 47th Avenue just south of the scrap metal yard providing residents with nice vistas of the two ponds. All of the residential properties fronting the west pond offer good possibilities for reuse for environmental learning, picnic areas, or on-site resident park



*Existing scrap yard*



*Tires at existing scrap yard*

"rangers" facilities. Plans are underway to purchase these properties as they become available, subject to environmental testing.

Special concerns and challenges arise from this unique blend of industrial, residential and public land owners within the planning area. While a goal of the Master Plan is to increase use of the area by the public, industrial owners are justifiably concerned with safety, security, and liability exposure should accidents occur on their property. An important component of the Master Plan for the area is, therefore, to reach an acceptable and appropriate balance between public access, natural resource enhancement, and non-interference with neighboring industrial activities.

To provide for effective management and protection of the ponds and their immediate surroundings, Metro has targeted several key parcels for Master Plan implementation. Highest priority parcels include those immediately adjacent to the ponds and those between the ponds and the Whitaker Slough where riparian enhancement, restoration, recreational activities, screening or buffering is desired. Second priority parcels include properties directly north of the Whitaker Slough. These priority areas are illustrated on page 47.



# Whitaker Ponds: Zoning/Overlays

Northeast Portland  
(all Heavy Industrial)

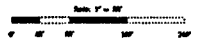
## ZONING

Study Area within  
Environmental Conservation  
Overlay

Study Area



**SOURCES:**  
 PARCEL MAP  
 City of Beaverton, Beaverton, Oregon City and Tigard  
 Source: City, 1994  
 Map accuracy: central point positional accuracy is plus or minus five feet or better.  
 Data collection date: 1-1-99  
 Multnomah County Set of 43rd Ave  
 Source: Multnomah County Assessor, 1994  
 Map accuracy: based on existing conditions. Line work created using coordinate geometry.  
 Boundary of map:  
 Source: Portland General Electric and Metro, 1994  
 Map accuracy: central point positional accuracy is plus or minus ten feet.  
 Data collection date: 1-1-99, 1-1-99 or 1-1-99



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 Portland, OR 97232-2736  
 (503) 797-1700



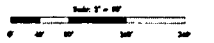
# Whitaker Ponds

Northeast Portland  
*Ownership*

Study Area



SOURCES:  
PARCEL MAP  
City of Beaverton, Milwaukie, Oregon City and Tigard  
Snoyer, City, 1994  
Map accuracy: central point positional accuracy is plus or minus five feet or better.  
Data collection date: 11-1997  
Map accuracy: based on existing topographic. Line work based on aerial photography.  
Source: Portland General Electric and Metro, 1994.  
Map accuracy: central point positional accuracy is plus or minus ten feet.  
Data collection date: 11-1997, 11-2000 or 11-2001



600 NE Canal Ave  
Portland, OR 97232 2736  
(503) 799-1700



## Land Use

The existing land use patterns, shown in the land use map on page 19, largely reflect ownership type. The Portland School District property contains 5 ball fields that are used heavily by Little League teams in spring through fall. The Little League consists of 28 teams and the fields are used Monday through Saturday for practice or competitions. Tournaments occur in July and August. Intramural games are played by teams from surrounding industries. The Little League maintains the two fields closest to the ponds and the School District maintains the fields closest to the school.

The Whitaker Facility building is held in reserve by the School District in case of emergency closing of another school. The Portland Police Department leases space in the building for training programs, and utilizes the fields for canine training.

The only access to the site occurs off NE Columbia Boulevard through the School District property. This entrance is gated for security reasons. Due to the high volume of traffic and large trucks along Columbia Boulevard, this entrance does not provide a safe access point.

The remainder of the southern portion of the study area is developed for various industrial tenants. With the exception of the scrap yard, and one ball field, the northern portion of the site is undeveloped. However, the open space is generally degraded and has been invaded by nuisance plant species such as blackberries, teasel, and purple loosestrife.



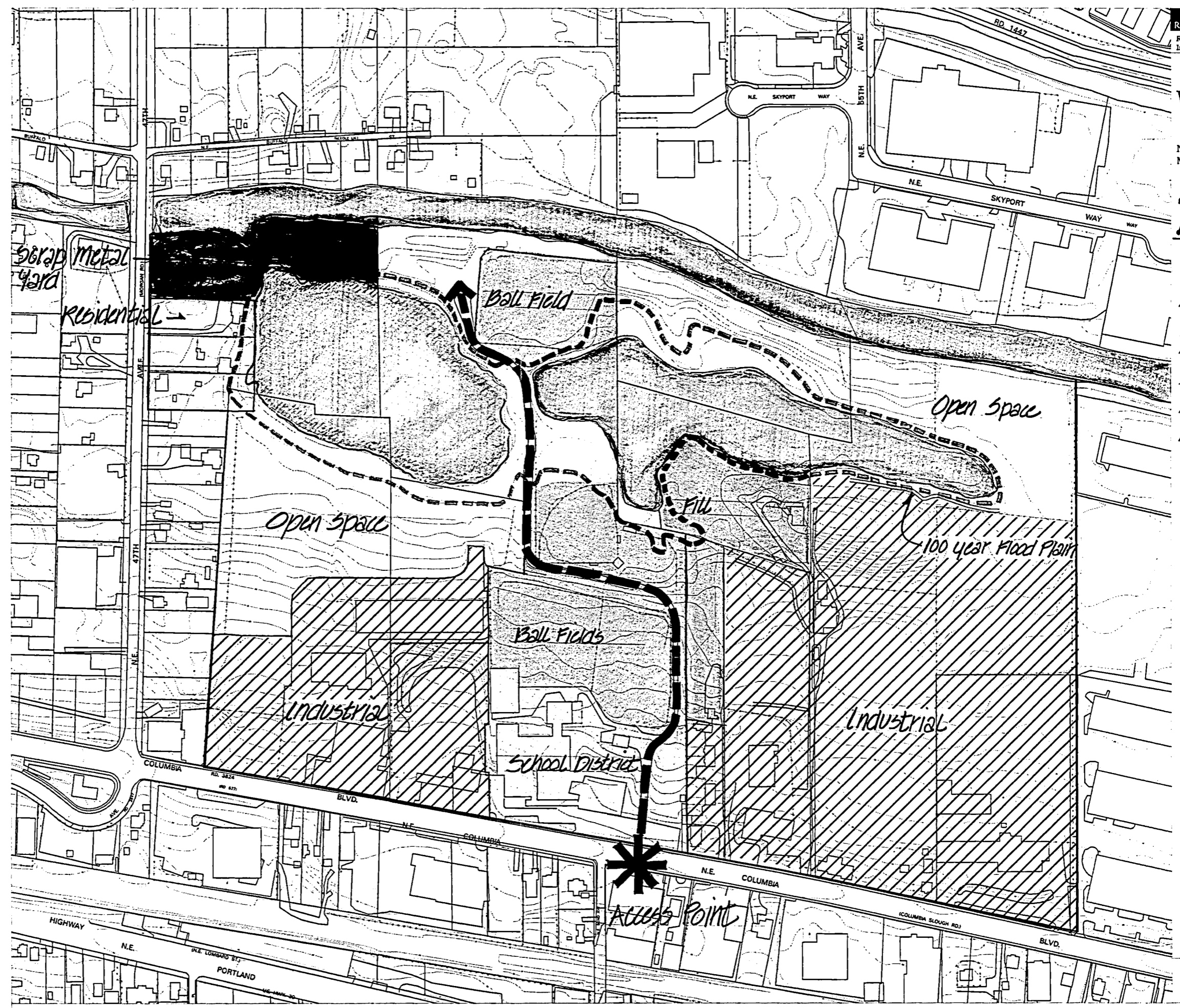
*Ballfield north of Whitaker Ponds*

# Whitaker Ponds

Northeast Portland  
Map #2

## EXISTING Land Use

- ∩ Roads
- ∩ Trees/Shrubs
- ∩ Water
- ∩ Buildings
- ∩ Contours
- ∩ Fence
- ∩ Taxlots
- ∩ Study Area



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## Hydrology

The Whitaker Ponds themselves cover an area of approximately 11 acres. The two ponds are physically separated by an unpaved access road, but are hydrologically connected through an 18-inch diameter metal culvert. Water flows from the east to west pond and eventually into the Whitaker Slough through a 60-inch diameter metal culvert located at the west pond's northwest corner. The east pond, except for its culvert connection with the west pond, is isolated. A stream channel, which once flowed into the southern edge of the east pond, no longer exists.

A 1994 study conducted by SRI/SHAPIRO identified the primary hydrologic source for the ponds as groundwater, which flows into the ponds year-round from the south and east. Several springs are located along the southern banks of both ponds and at the eastern end of the east pond. Stormwater runoff, direct precipitation, and the Columbia Slough also contribute water to the ponds.

Water depths in both ponds are relatively shallow, due primarily to the accumulation of up to 4 feet of sediment. Water levels fluctuate with the season and with the level of the Columbia Slough. The water level in the west pond is directly influenced by its connection to the Whitaker Slough. When water levels in the slough are low due to summer draw-down, the



*View of Whitaker Slough from NE 47th Avenue*

level in the west pond is also low. Observations indicate that water depths in the west pond fluctuate between approximately 2 and 4 feet.

The east pond is shallower than the west pond, with water levels measured as little as 1 foot deep. Water flows year-round through the culvert beneath the access road from the east pond into the west. The constant supply of groundwater maintains the water level in the pond. The height of the culvert connecting the two ponds does not allow the east pond to become less than approximately 1 foot deep.

### Water Quality

The water quality of both ponds appears to be relatively low due, in part, to the discharge of stormwater and groundwater which is known to be high in nutrients. Untreated stormwater enters the ponds through pipes draining adjacent roads and parking lots. One such pipe conveys stormwater from a storm drain on Columbia Boulevard into the southwest corner of the west pond. Based on a visual assessment by SRI/SHAPIRO, this contaminated water creates oily sheens on the water surface, lowering the quality of the habitat for fish and amphibians. Sediments carried through the pipes settles to the bottom when it reaches the pond creating shallow water and increasing the water temperature.

Adjacent residences and businesses are on septic systems and are not yet connected to sewage treatment systems. As water from drain fields flow into the ground, nutrients may be contributed to the groundwater. Groundwater high in nutrients flows into the ponds, where shallow depths, high temperatures, and low water flows cause summer algal blooms. Algal blooms indicate water flow levels and may have a detrimental impact on the habitat for warmwater game fish.

The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) has the responsibility of improving the

water quality of the entire Columbia Slough Watershed. Many water quality improvement projects are underway along the slough in areas like the Whitaker Ponds.

### Sediment Quality

Pond sediments were tested in 1994 to investigate the potential for a warmwater fishery. Preliminary results suggest evidence of substances typically found in stormwater runoff.

A recent study by the City of Portland (BES) has determined that various contaminants have been found in the waters and sediments of the nearby Whitaker Slough. More information about Columbia Slough sediment contamination can be found in the Screening Level Risk Assessment Report prepared for BES in February 1995.



Riparian Vegetation

## Vegetation Communities

Three main vegetation communities are currently present in the Whitaker Ponds planning area: upland, riparian, and wetland (see map on page 27). All of these vegetation communities have been influenced by human disturbance.

### Upland Vegetation

The upland vegetation community includes abandoned pastures and ballfields. The upland community is dominated by herbaceous weedy species and Himalayan blackberry, with scattered trees and shrubs, both native and introduced. The ballfields are seeded with non-native grasses and are regularly mowed. The upland fields are dominated by non-native grasses as well as Himalayan blackberry and teasel. Species present in the upland community of Whitaker Ponds include:

#### Trees:

<i>Abies grandis</i>	Grand fir
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Bigleaf maple
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper birch
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsonii</i>	Port Orford cedar
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir

#### Shrubs:

<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Tall Oregon grape
<i>Chaenomeles sp.</i>	Quince
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Hazelnut
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Salal
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Oceanspray
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Cherry
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	English laurel
<i>Rhododendron sp.</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Rose
<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	Clustered wild rose
<i>Rubus discolor</i>	Himalayan blackberry
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Pacific blackberry
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow

**Herbaceous:**

<i>Achillea filimentosa</i>	Yarrow
<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	Colonial bentgrass
<i>Bromus sp.</i>	Brome sp.
<i>Chrysanthemum leucan.</i>	Oxeye daisy
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle
<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>	Orchard grass
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace
<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i>	Teasel
<i>Epilobium paniculatum</i>	Tall willow-weed
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall fescue
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Catchweed bedstraw
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovefoot geranium
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Baltic ivy
<i>Lactuca muralis</i>	Wall lettuce
<i>Lathrus latifolius.</i>	Sweetpea
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English plantain
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Sword fern
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover

**Riparian Vegetation**

The riparian plant community is located on the banks of the Whitaker Slough and around the perimeter of the two ponds. In general, the riparian plant community contains a mix of tree and shrub species, most of which are native.

The dominant species are cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and red alder (*Alnus rubra*). Steep banks and areas of fill along the pond perimeters preclude the establishment of extensive riparian vegetation in portions of both ponds.

Vegetation in the riparian zone around the west pond is dominated by black cottonwood, which shades the portion of the pond closest to the banks. The west end of the pond lacks riparian vegetation due to residences along NE 47th Avenue. In addition, fill material associated with the junkyard located in the northwest corner of the pond has created banks approximately 10 to 12 feet high. These high, steep banks have limited the amount of riparian vegetation

located in this area. In general, the banks around the west pond range from 18 to 42 inches in height.

The riparian area of the east pond is narrow and discontinuous. Large areas of the north and south banks are dominated by Himalayan blackberry, with scattered black cottonwood trees. Steep banks and areas of fill also occur both on the north and south banks of the east pond, which limits the growth of riparian vegetation. In general, bank heights range from 12 to 72 inches.

Native riparian vegetation has been planted on the northwest edge of the east pond. The plants are a mix of trees and shrubs and include species such as willow (*Salix sp.*), Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*) and Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*).

The following is a list of species comprising the riparian community:

**Trees:**

<i>Alnus rubra</i>	Red alder
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	Oregon ash
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	Black cottonwood
<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler willow

**Shrubs:**

<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red osier dogwood
<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	Clustered wild rose
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Douglas hawthorn
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	Hardhack

**Wetland Vegetation Community**

The wetland vegetation community is located in isolated areas around the perimeter of both ponds. In the east pond, this community is isolated to the far eastern end and along a small area of the southern edge. In the west pond the wetland areas are located along the eastern edge, and in the southwest corner. These emergent wetland areas generally have gradual banks and water depths less than 12 inches.

This community is dominated by emergent wetland species, both native and introduced. Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) are two introduced species which tend to be very invasive and need to be controlled to prevent them from establishing monotypic stands.

Wetland species observed on-site include the following:

<i>Bidens cernua</i>	<i>Nodding beggars tick</i>
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	<i>Water starwort</i>
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	<i>Poison hemlock</i>
<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i>	<i>Barnyard grass</i>
<i>Eleocharis sp.</i>	<i>Spikerush</i>
<i>Epilobium watsonii</i>	<i>Watson's willow-weed</i>
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	<i>Common horsetail</i>
<i>Geum macrophyllum</i>	<i>Large-leaved avens</i>
<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>	<i>Yellow flag iris</i>
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	<i>Soft rush</i>
<i>Lemna minor</i>	<i>Duckweed</i>
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<i>Purple loosestrife</i>
<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>	<i>Water parsley</i>
<i>Phragmites communis</i>	<i>Common reed</i>
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	<i>Reed canarygrass</i>
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	<i>English plantago</i>
<i>Polygonum sp.</i>	<i>Knotweed</i>
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	<i>Creeping buttercup</i>
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aqu.</i>	<i>Watercress</i>
<i>Scirpus validus</i>	<i>Soft stem bulrush</i>
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	<i>Bittersweet nightshade</i>
<i>Sparganium emersum</i>	<i>Burreed</i>
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	<i>Cattail</i>
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	<i>Stinging nettle</i>
<i>Veronica americana</i>	<i>Speedwell</i>

## Wildlife Habitat

A variety of mammals, birds, and reptiles use the Whitaker Ponds. Species utilizing the area tend to be urban-tolerant, and no Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE) species are believed to occur on the site.

Mammals in the area are generally ubiquitous urban species such as opossum, raccoon, mole,

squirrel, and nutria. Beaver and turtles have been known to occupy the ponds in the past, and recent beaver activity was observed on the southern bank of the west pond. Mammal habitat in Whitaker Ponds is restricted due to surrounding land use, insufficient cover, and human disturbance. The existing vegetation patterns around the ponds are discontinuous and sparse. The Whitaker Slough, however, provides a migration corridor for some species, though the slough both up and downstream of the ponds is extensively developed.

Approximately 40 species of birds have been observed utilizing the ponds and the surrounding area. The majority are songbirds or waterfowl. A pair of red-tailed hawks have been known to nest in the cottonwood trees along the southern banks of the east pond. Great blue herons are regular visitors to both ponds. As with mammals, cover and nesting areas are limited for bird species. Large trees and snags are utilized by a number of species, but are relatively rare in the Whitaker Ponds riparian vegetation community.

Whitaker Ponds are home to a large population of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Carp, which are native to Asia, were introduced to Oregon in the late 1800s. The ponds are ideal habitat for the carp. They prefer shallow, slow moving water and are very tolerant of adverse conditions, such as high water temperatures, pollution, and low oxygen levels. Carp are prolific breeders and are capable of spawning in as little as 3 to 4 inches of standing water. Carp stir the sediments of the ponds creating turbid water and conditions unsuitable for many warmwater game fish such as bass and crappie.

Another common fish in Whitaker Ponds is the three-spine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*). This small fish is easily identified by the three spines along its back. It lives near the bottom and is often found in large schools. Other species of fish found within the ponds are mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) and suckers (*Catostomus sp.*).

The number of amphibians in the ponds has been reduced probably because of water quality degradation. Stormwater runoff from parking lots and roads may have contributed to increased sedimentation and contamination from substances such as oil. Shallow water depths, due to sedimentation, creates conditions leading to higher water temperatures, which adversely affects many species. In addition, the uniformity of the depth of the ponds and the lack of woody debris within the water suitable for cover, also negatively impacts species diversity.

The following is a list of animal species known to utilize the site:

**Mammals:**

Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)  
 Mole (*Scapanus sp.*)  
 Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)  
 Nutria (*Myocaster coypus*)  
 Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*)  
 Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

**Birds:**

American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)  
 American robin (*Turdus migratorius*)  
 Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
 Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)  
 Black capped chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*)  
 Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)  
 Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)  
 Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*)  
 Cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)  
 Common crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)  
 Common merganser (*Mergus merganser*)  
 Double crested cormorant  
 (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)  
 Downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)  
 European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)  
 Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*)  
 Hairy woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)  
 House finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)  
 House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)  
 Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*)  
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)  
 Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)  
 Northwestern crow (*Corvus caurinus*)  
 Orange crowned warbler (*Vermivora celata*)  
 Oregon junco (*Junco hyemalis*)  
 Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)  
 Red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)  
 Ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)  
 Scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)  
 Song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)  
 Spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)  
 Stellar's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*)  
 Teal (*Anas sp.*)  
 Tree swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*)  
 Various gulls (*Larus sp.*)  
 Willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)  
 Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*)

**Fish/Amphibians:**

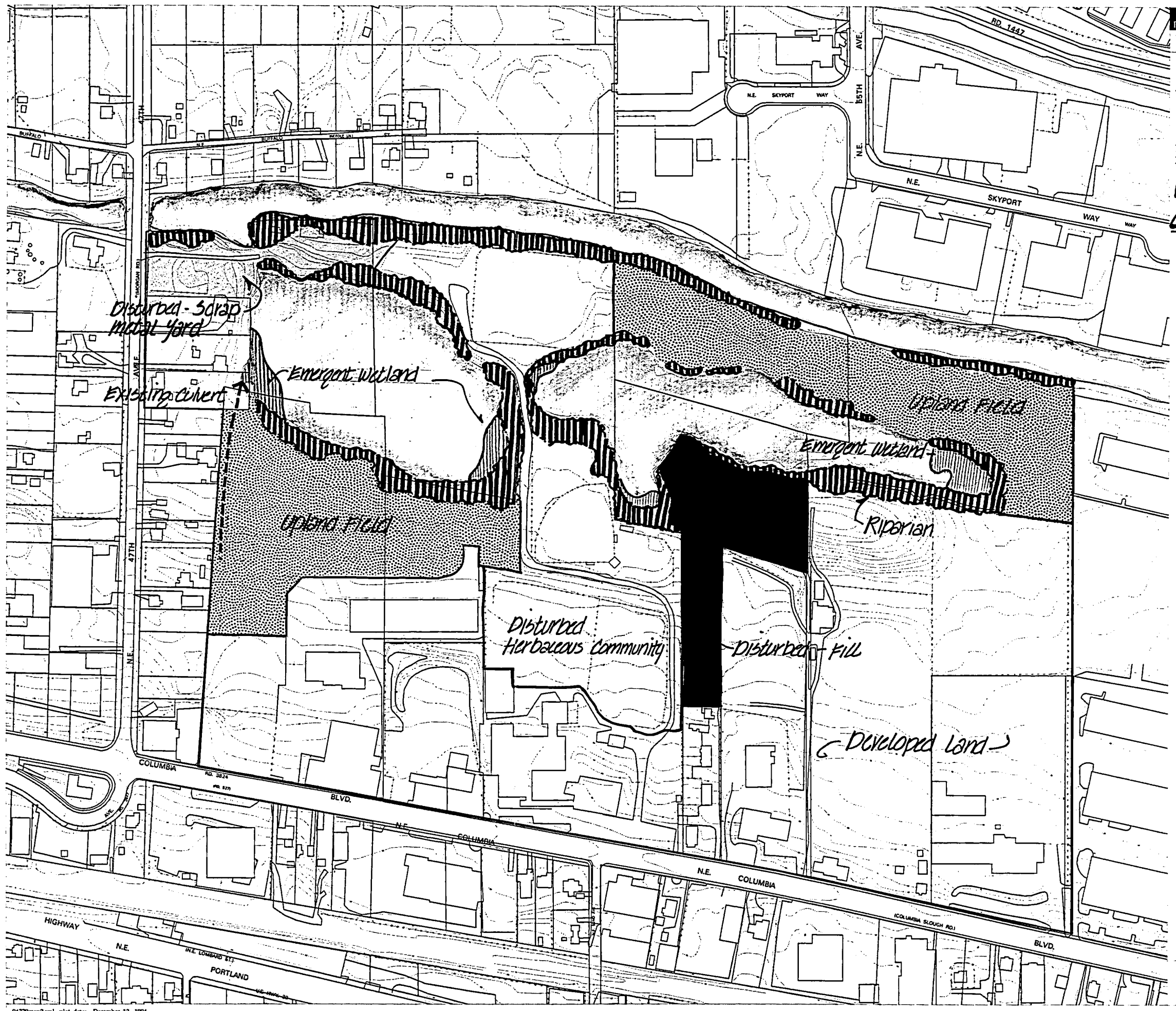
Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)  
 Mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*)  
 Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*)  
 Sucker (*Catostomus sp.*)  
 Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)



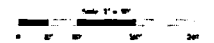
# Whitaker Ponds

Northeast Portland  
Map #2

## Vegetation Communities



- ∩ Roads
- ∩ Trees/Shrubs
- ∩ Water
- ∩ Buildings
- ∩ Contours
- ∩ Fence
- ∩ Taxlots
- ∩ Study Area



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## Project Issues

During the development of the Master Plan many issues affecting plan implementation were identified and discussed in public workshops and in one-on-one meetings with interested landowners and citizens. Key issues affecting plan implementation are discussed above in the Existing Conditions section and are summarized below. Each of these issues are addressed through specific recommended actions identified in Chapter IV, Concept Master Plan and Chapter V, Plan Implementation.

### Natural Resources

- Water quality in the ponds is questionable and could be affecting habitat for fish and amphibians.
- Testing of sediments and water samples needs to be undertaken in coordination with the Columbia Slough Sediment Project.
- The site is degraded and in need of clean up and restoration.
- There is a lack in diversity of habitat types. Emergent wetlands and aquatic environments need enhancement.
- Riparian zones need enhancement.
- The banks are too steep in some areas, limiting the amount of riparian vegetation.
- Invasive plant species need to be eliminated or controlled.
- Pollutants/nutrients from stormwater runoff and maintenance of ball fields could be contributing to water quality problems.

### Ownership

- Numerous private parcels are contained within the study area, making overall management difficult.
- Industrial neighbors have concerns for privacy, liability, safety and security.
- Existing vehicular access off Columbia Boulevard is unsafe.

### Recreation

- The ponds are too shallow to support a warmwater fishery.
- There is no variety in the depths of the pond.
- The feasibility of dredging the ponds needs to be determined based on sediment tests and cost estimates.
- The presence of a large number of carp pose problems to establishment of a fishery.
- Activity generated by the northernmost ball fields conflicts with natural resource protection on the north side of the ponds.
- Little League teams currently operate with 5 ball fields. To replace the northernmost field, existing fields to the south should be upgraded.

### Funding Sources for Plan Implementation

- Limited funding is available to implement the Master Plan.
- Additional funding sources must be identified and earmarked for specific activities such as dredging, property acquisition, canoe/boat launch construction, and relocation of the northernmost ball field.

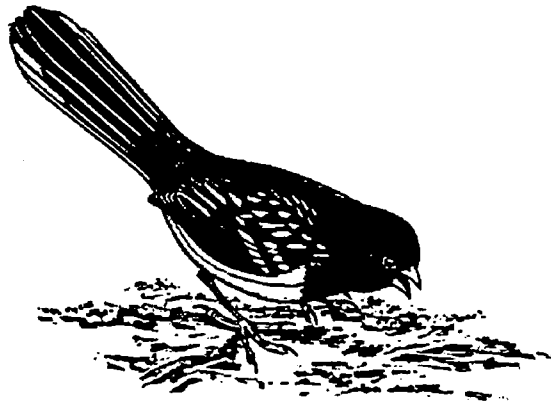
### Project Partnerships

- Project momentum could slow down if committed partnerships are not formed.
- Public and private sector project partners and their roles and responsibilities for short term and long term involvement need to be identified and formalized where possible.
- A list of volunteers and community supporters willing to participate in plan implementation activities should be developed.





# IV. Concept Master Plan



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# CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

## Intent

The intent of the Concept Master Plan is to create a vision for the future restoration of a degraded natural resource which accommodates concerns of property owners and offers the combined benefits of wildlife enhancement, water quality improvement, recreational opportunities, educational interpretation, and improved quality of life for present and future generations. The Master Plan is also intended to provide direction for volunteer groups such as EnviroCorps to implement site improvements and restoration activities.

## Mission Statement

Restore and enhance the Whitaker Ponds Natural Area and provide appropriate levels of recreational activities for generations to come.

## Goals

### I. Restore Natural Resources

The existing resources on the site have become severely degraded as the use of the land shifted from an agriculturally based to an industrial based economy. A major goal of the Master Plan is to restore the ponds area to a pre-disturbance condition. This involves removal of non-native plant and animal species, clean up of debris, establishment of native plant and animal species, improvement of water quality if required, and re-establishment of the physical connection between the ponds to maintain a warmwater fishery.

### II. Provide Environmental Education and Stewardship Opportunities

By restoring the natural resources of the area and creating more diversity in habitat types, a more complex biological system can be created. As wildlife enhancement is balanced with appropriate levels of public use, numerous opportunities exist to educate visitors about the complex natural system they are participating in. Use of the area for educational and

stewardship purposes will be encouraged through:

- Development of a trail system with interpretive signage and view points highlighting specific features of the site.
- Incorporation of an environmental learning center.
- Encouragement of school groups to use the site for environmental demonstration projects.
- Involvement of volunteer groups such as EnviroCorps in restoration projects.

### III. Improve Water Quality

Sedimentation and questionable water quality in the ponds may be a result of past agricultural practices, industrial neighbors, the lack of a stormwater sewer system in the area, and hydrological connection with the Whitaker Slough. Water quality and sediment sampling is required to determine the potential for a successful warmwater fishery on site. Potential flow from the Whitaker Slough into the ponds should be eliminated. If feasible, pond sediments could be dredged to create deepwater habitat necessary for a sustainable fishery. The Master Plan also calls for a system of bioswales to be used to treat runoff from impervious areas before release into the ponds.

### IV. Encourage Community Access and Use

Natural areas such as Whitaker Ponds are a rare commodity, especially in the densely populated areas of northeast Portland. To encourage greater use and enjoyment by the community, a variety of recreational programs and amenities have been incorporated into the Master Plan, including:

- Development of a warmwater fisheries in the ponds.
- Provision of ball fields for Little League activities.

- Incorporation of picnic areas.
- Incorporation of a canoe/boat launch onto the Whitaker Slough.
- Development of a looped trail system offering views to the ponds and the slough.
- Provisions of parking for 20 cars off 47th Avenue.

**V. Incorporate the Concerns of Adjacent Property Owners**

The Master Plan developed for the ponds area was based on a series of meetings both with individual land owners and the general public to solicit input on project goals, limitations, constraints, and alternatives to development. These meetings were very helpful in establishing the framework for future restoration efforts.

To implement the Master Plan, specific negotiations must continue to allow for purchase or easements of key parcels of land.

**VI. Insure Compatibility between Industrial Activities and Recreational Users**

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the land owners adjacent to the pond have very valid reasons to be concerned about liability and security issues relating to increased public use. To address this concern, the Master Plan provides a buffer zone on the south side of the ponds which prohibits public access and which provides for fencing and additional plantings to provide a clear separation. To increase security even further, the entrance to the site will be gated and secured at night, and a resident park "ranger" is recommended to occupy one of the existing private residences as property becomes available.



*View of local residences on the West Pond*

## Components of the Master Plan

The Concept Master Plan for Whitaker Ponds is illustrated on page 39. Key components of the plan are briefly described below.

### Public Access and Use

A new primary access to the site is provided off 47th Avenue with parking for 20 cars. This provides a safer vehicular access than can be provided off Columbia Boulevard. This entrance will be gated and secured in the evening. The park gate should be opened early enough and closed late enough to allow ample opportunity for fishing and wildlife viewing when these activities are most productive. Routed off the parking lot will be a canoe/boat launch to the Whitaker Slough. Multnomah County Drainage District is interested in joint use of the boat launch for their dredging equipment and should be a partner in this component. The interior portions of the site will be limited to pedestrian use only. No motorized vehicles will be permitted. The culvert and land bridge between the two ponds will be removed to eliminate the existing access to the south.

To increase protection of the natural resources, the Master Plan provides zones for similar types of activities. For example, active recreation activities such as softball, will be located on the south side of the ponds on School District property. The north side of the ponds will be restored and enhanced for wildlife habitat and passive recreation activities. Picnicking sites will be provided near the parking lot for ease of access and trash removal.

Non-motorized boats and float tubes should not be allowed on the ponds. Use of non-motorized boats and float tubes would conflict with the goals to prohibit public access and protect riparian wildlife habitat on the southern portion of the ponds. In addition, due to the pond size, boats would conflict with pier and bank anglers.

Metro and Portland Public Schools should explore their roles and responsibilities with regard to management of activities north and

south of the ponds. An approach worth exploring would be for Metro or another partner to be solely responsible for management of activities north of the ponds, and for the School District to continue as it has to be solely responsible for managing facilities and uses, including Little League, on their property south of the ponds.

### Environmental Education

A feature of the environmental education program could be an Environmental Learning Center which includes classrooms, administration offices, and resource library. This Center could be housed in one of the existing residences along 47th Avenue as these parcels become available for purchase. The Center would be a good staging area for field trips by various school programs. Routed from the Center would be a pedestrian trail system leading to a series of viewing areas overlooking the ponds and the slough. Trails and viewing areas would be buffered with vegetation to minimize disruption to wildlife. Interpretive signage would be provided at key points along the trail to inform visitors of the unique aspects of the area.

### Buffer Zones

To maximize safety and security and reduce conflict between public use and industrial activity, no public access is proposed on the southern portion of the ponds, with the exception of the School District property. With the cooperation of individual property owners, these buffer zones would be planted heavily to enhance riparian habitats and increase screening of industrial operations. Fencing would also be incorporated along the boundary of the buffer area and industrial property to further increase security.

### Water Quality Enhancement

The water quality in Whitaker Ponds needs to be tested and, if necessary, improved to make the habitat suitable for warmwater gamefish, amphibians and other wetland dependent

species. The culvert connecting the west pond with the Whitaker Slough needs to be replaced with a weir to eliminate movement of water and fish from the Whitaker Slough into the ponds system, and to control the water levels in the ponds.

The ponds are currently receiving untreated stormwater from adjacent roads and parking lots. It is imperative that the majority of the stormwater be treated prior to flowing into the ponds. Pipes conveying stormwater to the ponds could be located and directed toward a treatment facility constructed along the southern edge of the west pond. This would assure that stormwater currently flowing from Columbia Boulevard, NE 47th Avenue, and the parking lots of adjacent industrial sites would be treated and the majority of the oil and sediment removed.

The treatment facility could be a combination of biofiltration swales and a sedimentation pond. The vegetated biofiltration swales would remove many of the nutrients found in stormwater. The sedimentation pond would slow the flow of the water allowing sediment to sink to the bottom before sediment laden water can flow into the west pond. The water quality treatment facility would be constructed in areas dominated by upland grasses, with limited removal of native trees or shrubs. Sedimentation ponds would be maintained periodically to assure effective operation. Development of this treatment facility should be coordinated with the City's Columbia Slough Water Quality Improvement Program.

#### **Sediment Removal (Dredging)**

Sediment, at least 4 feet deep, currently exists within the ponds. This sediment has contributed to the shallowness of the ponds and the uniformity of the depth. Shallow water depths limit the space for fish production and increase temperature and the likelihood of oxygen depletion. The existing silt bottom limits spawning by warmwater game fish, as well as the diversity of invertebrates available for fish food.

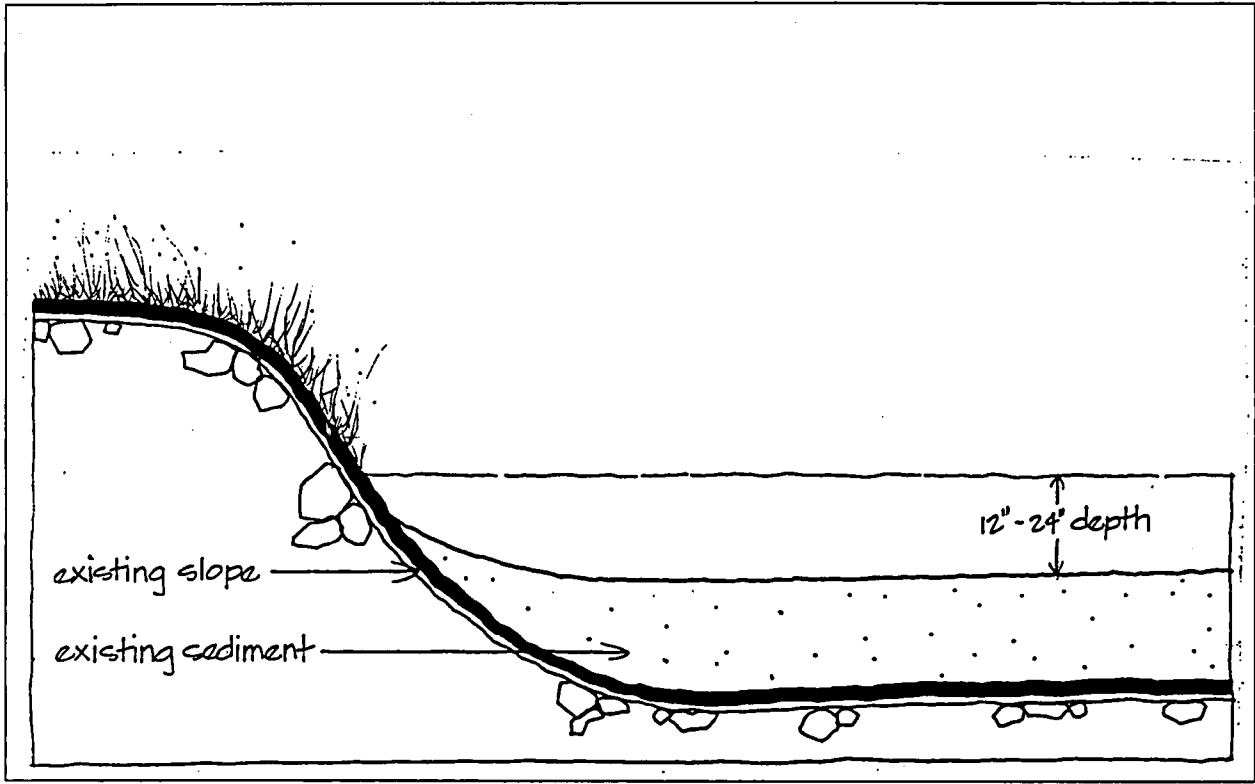
To increase the quality of the habitat of Whitaker Ponds, up to 4 feet of sediment should be removed from portions of both ponds. The sediment must first be tested for possible contamination to determine whether removal is feasible. Sediment testing should be coordinated with the City's Columbia Slough Sediment Program. The removal of the sediments will increase the depth of the water and, along with increased bank shading, will allow cooler temperatures especially near the banks. Cooler temperatures are conducive for the reproduction of fish. The removal of the sediment will create a variety of water depths, increasing the diversity of habitats within the ponds.

The Multnomah County Drainage District should be consulted for their potential role in dredging the ponds as a component of the Columbia Slough Flood Control Program. Dredging funds may also be available from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program.

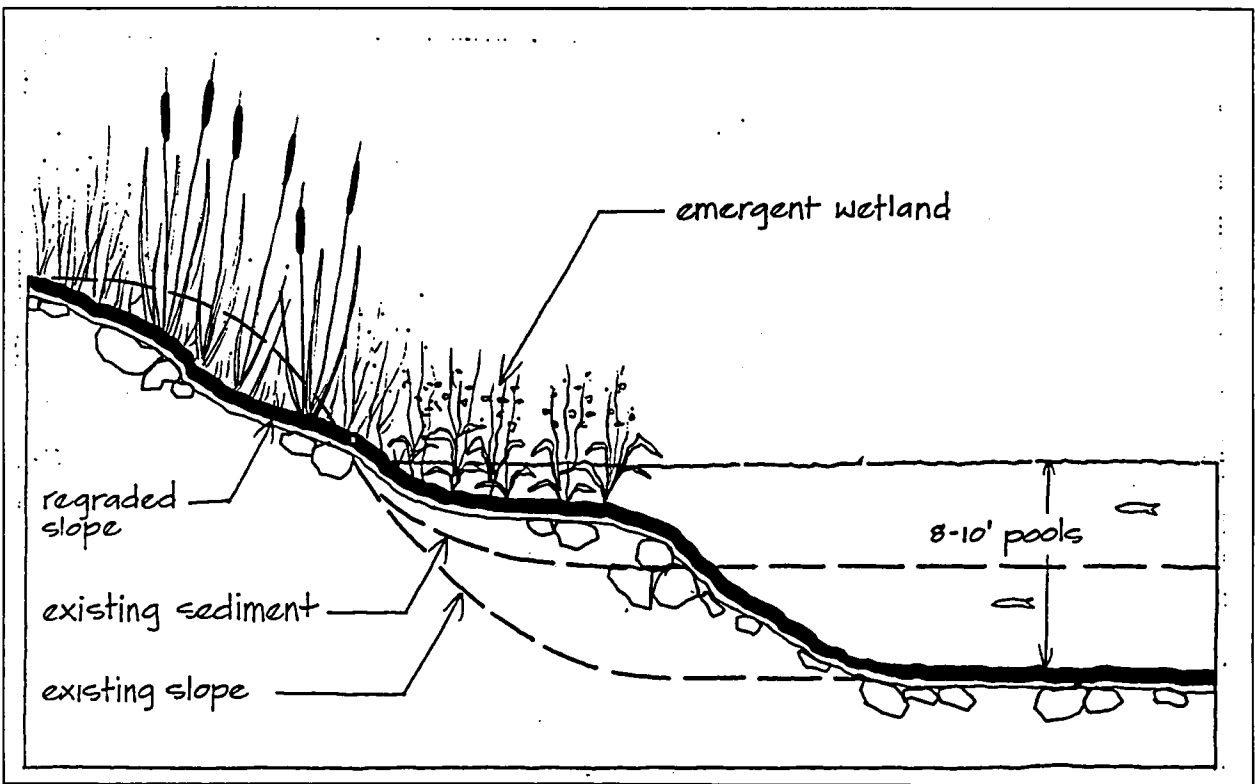
#### **Site Restoration**

Emergent Wetland Enhancement. Very few areas of emergent vegetation currently exist within the ponds as illustrated in Cross Section 1. Emergent vegetation is very important for providing food and cover for wildlife and invertebrates and for improving water quality by trapping sediment and removing nutrients. To increase the amount of emergent vegetation within the ponds, it will be necessary to create gentle slopes along the banks of the ponds as illustrated in Cross Section 2. Gentle slopes between 7:1 and 10:1 can be created by grading the pond banks.

Although the water depth in the east pond is shallow, emergent vegetation has not become established. More suitable substrate in the east pond could be created by raising and lowering water levels, using the proposed west pond weir to simulate seasonal fluctuations. Water level fluctuations would need to be within a range that would not adversely affect a warmwater



Cross Section 1: Existing Condition



Cross Section 2: Proposed Restoration

fishery. A proposed enhancement plan involving fluctuating water levels would require close coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. These newly created areas could be planted with a variety of native vegetation.

A list of native herbaceous species suitable for an emergent area are as follows:

<i>Bidens cernua</i>	<i>Nodding beggars tick</i>
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	<i>Beaked sedge</i>
<i>Carex obnupta</i>	<i>Slough sedge</i>
<i>Eleocharis sp.</i>	<i>Spikerush</i>
<i>Juncus ensifolius</i>	<i>Dagger-leaf rush</i>
<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>	<i>Water parsley</i>
<i>Polygonum sp.</i>	<i>Knotweed</i>
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aqu.</i>	<i>Watercress</i>
<i>Scirpus validus</i>	<i>Soft stem bulrush</i>
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	<i>Hard stem bulrush</i>
<i>Sparganium emersum</i>	<i>Burreed</i>
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	<i>Cattail</i>

**Riparian Zone Enhancement.** Riparian vegetation along the margins of the ponds and the Whitaker Slough has many benefits for wildlife and the water quality of the ponds. Riparian vegetation provides travel corridors, cover, nesting areas, and an abundant food source for many species of wildlife. The roots of riparian vegetation binds soil particles which stops erosion. Overhanging vegetation shades the water, lowering its temperature, and tree limbs falling into the water provides cover for fish and substrate for macro invertebrates.

Riparian vegetation can be enhanced around all portions of the ponds and along the Whitaker Slough. Areas currently lacking significant riparian vegetation include the northern edge of the east pond. This area should be planted with species tolerant of dry soil conditions, such as Douglas fir and Big-leaf maple. Riparian vegetation is also needed along the southern edge of the east pond, which is currently dominated by a dense growth of blackberries. This area should be planted with species such

as Red alder and Black cottonwood that can provide shade and woody debris to the ponds, which are important for fish.

The following list of trees and shrubs are appropriate for planting in the Whitaker Ponds area:

**Trees:**

<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	<i>Bigleaf maple</i>
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	<i>Red alder</i>
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	<i>Oregon ash</i>
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	<i>Western red cedar</i>
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	<i>Black cottonwood</i>
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	<i>Douglas fir</i>

**Shrubs:**

<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	<i>Serviceberry</i>
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	<i>Tall Oregon grape</i>
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	<i>Red osier dogwood</i>
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	<i>Hazelnut</i>
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	<i>Douglas hawthorn</i>
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	<i>Salal</i>
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	<i>Oceanspray</i>
<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	<i>Clustered wild rose</i>
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	<i>Scouler's willow</i>
<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	<i>Pacific willow</i>

Native trees and shrubs should be planted in a random manner to simulate natural conditions. Plants should be clustered and not planted in a defined pattern. The eventual height of the trees and shrubs should be estimated and the moisture requirements of the plants should be known to determine the most suitable location for planting.

**Non-native Plant Control**

The growth of selected non-native plants needs to be controlled within the emergent wetland and riparian areas. Many non-native species within both vegetation communities will continue to grow despite attempts to control their growth. Species such as purple loosestrife and reed canarygrass are capable of forming large monotypic stands. These monotypic



stands not only preclude the growth of native species, they decrease habitat suitable for many birds, fish, and invertebrates.

English ivy and Himalayan blackberry are two non-native species which need to be controlled within the riparian areas. English ivy is common on many of the trees growing adjacent to the ponds. Himalayan blackberry is common in all areas surrounding the ponds. While Himalayan blackberry does provide habitat for wildlife, it easily outcompetes native plant species.

Initial control of all non-native species should be by hand. If this method is not effective, other control strategies could be used, including the application of chemicals. However, chemical applications should be viewed as a last resort.

#### **Warmwater Fisheries**

The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife strongly support a put and take fishery for the short term, and development of a warmwater fishery for the long term, at Whitaker Ponds. These activities will provide local youth with fishing, outdoor recreation, and educational opportunities. The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation is committed to assist with funding for fish stocking and angling education.

Initially, a put and take fishery could be available to the public by simply raising the water levels of the ponds. The depth of the water in the ponds would need to be increased an additional two feet to a maximum depth of between 5 and 6 feet with the installation of a control weir in the west pond. The weir, which will be a box culvert capable of supporting vehicle traffic, will replace the 60-inch diameter corrugated metal culvert in the northwest corner of the west pond. This box culvert will contain stop boards, which can be placed at various heights to control the water depth. The year-round flow of groundwater in the ponds will ensure that the water level is maintained at a stable level. The weir will be designed to ensure that the

water quality and warmwater fish population in the Ponds are kept totally separate from the Whitaker Slough System. Water would flow in a direction from the Ponds to the Slough only, and fish from the slough could not migrate to the Ponds.

Suitable warmwater gamefish habitat within the ponds is limited due to many factors. These include: shallow water, high water temperatures, turbid water, and lack of food and cover. Shallow water is exasperated by the large amount of sediment within both of the ponds. When this sediment is eventually removed, it will increase the variety of water depths within the ponds. The ideal depth for a pond capable of providing suitable conditions for warmwater fish reproduction is between 8 and 10 feet. Depths shallower than this can support fish populations, but they may have to be stocked periodically to maintain a viable population for fishing.

In addition to shallow water, the sediment is stirred into the water column by the large number of carp found within the ponds. This creates turbid water conditions which is not suitable for many species of gamefish. It will be necessary, therefore, to remove the carp from the ponds prior to stocking with gamefish such as bass, bluegill, and crappie. Any fish removal will be conducted with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife oversight.

The culvert beneath the access road should eventually be removed to allow water to flow freely between the two ponds. An opening of approximately 20 feet will be sufficient to allow fish passage between the two ponds. The location of the opening should be chosen to minimize the loss of large trees along the access road.

Larger fish will probably inhabit the west pond because of the deeper water and cooler water temperatures. The east pond, with the enhancement of emergent wetland areas, will provide habitat and refuge for smaller fish. Piles

of woody debris can be placed in both ponds to provide habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

In order to provide a fishery program, the Master Plan, illustrated on page 39, proposes to:

- Upgrade the culvert between Whitaker Slough and the west pond to allow raising of the west pond by 2' to allow for a put and take fishery. Residences on the Pond would not be affected by this minimal increase in water level.
- Remove the carp in the ponds.
- Connect the two ponds into one water body by removing the existing culvert and road between the ponds. This also creates a physical barrier between the natural surroundings north of the ponds and the more developed and active area to the south.
- Dredge the west pond and a channel to the east pond if determined to be feasible.
- Enhance areas along the north shore of the west pond for angling activities.
- Incorporate two fishing piers on the north side of the west pond.
- Explore an agreement with the School District that would remove them from liability of placing fish piers on the north side of the west pond.

#### **Active Recreation**

The Little League has utilized the existing ball fields for years through a joint-use agreement that the School District has with the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau. The Little League receives a use permit from the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau. The Master Plan provides for continued Little League participation but proposes concentrating sports activities to the south side of the ponds. The northernmost ball field would be removed and the area restored to a native plant community.

One of the existing fields could be upgraded to a tournament level field and provided with temporary fencing to allow for shared use of outfields during practice times. An issue to be explored further is whether or not Metro should be responsible for financing the removal of the northernmost ballfield and upgrading one of the existing practice fields to a tournament field. The Lakeside Little League should be consulted and involved in the ballfield relocation process. Their involvement will have a positive affect on the project.

#### **Security**

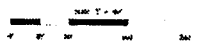
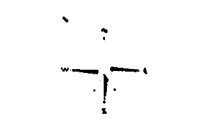
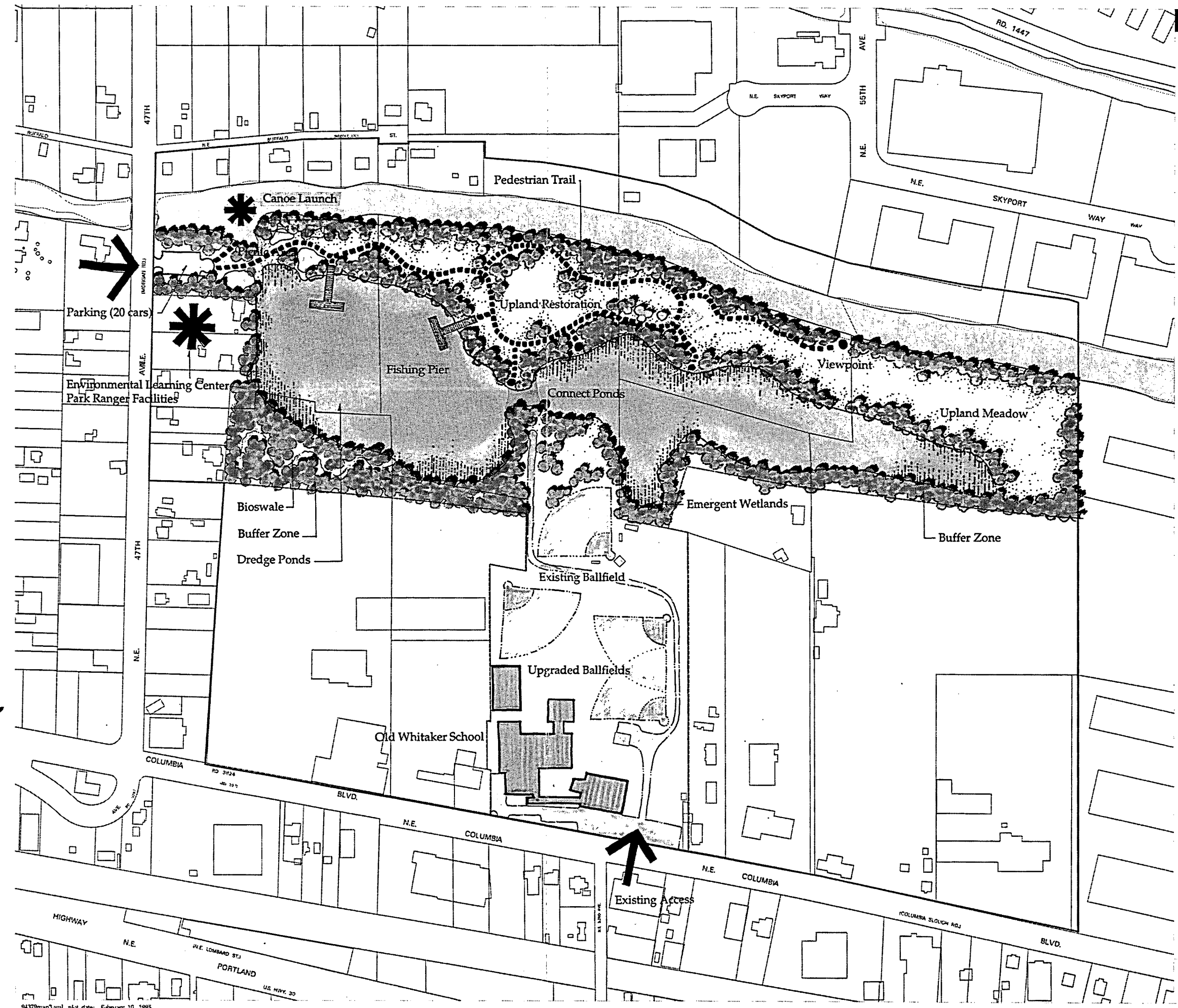
As in most urban areas, security is always a concern. To provide for increased security, the Master Plan proposes gating the entry to the site, and providing accommodations for an on-site resident park "ranger" to keep watch over the area during all hours of the day or night. An ideal location for the park ranger would be near the entrance to the park along 47th Avenue where traffic to and from the park can be easily observed. Control of access would be improved by the removal of the existing culvert and road between the ponds.

# Whitaker Ponds

Northeast Portland  
Map #3

## Concept Master Plan

- Water
- Buildings
- Taxlots
- Study Area

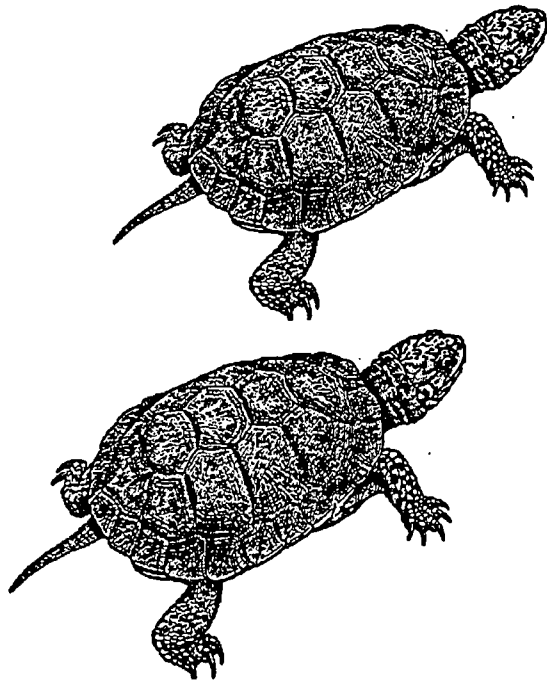


48 NE Grand Ave  
Portland, OR 97232-2776  
(503) 997-1770



94379map3.dml, plot date: February 10, 1995

# V. Plan Implementation



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## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The concepts presented herein establish the desired vision for the project. Committed partnerships, energy and funding will be necessary to bring the plan to fruition. At present, limited funding is available and those funds are targeted for easements and/or land acquisition, not site improvements. However, easements and/or land acquisition is an important first step, since plan implementation can only occur on publicly owned land or where clear legal agreements have been negotiated with adjacent property owners. Priority lands for implementation are shown in the map on page 47.

### Priority Tasks

Due to the conceptual nature of this plan, several unknowns concerning water quality, dredge feasibility, permitting, implementation costs, and funding sources need further attention. Many of these items will directly affect the timing, scope and phasing of plan implementation and, therefore, must be addressed as a first priority. These top priority items include:

1. **Conduct Level I and Level II environmental testing for all parcels optioned for purchase.** These tests are crucial to determine the suitability of the parcels for Master Plan activities.
2. **Determine the potential of a warmwater fishery.** Test sediment and water quality in the west and east ponds to determine potential for a short term put and take fishery and a longer term, more sustainable fishery.
3. **Determine the feasibility of dredging.** Based on the results of environmental testing concerning sediment condition in the ponds, the feasibility and cost of dredging must be investigated. This is important to address early since dredging operations could impact large areas of the site. Dredging may also provide fill material to reshape the shoreline. It will, therefore, be important to coordinate all restoration, facilities improvement, and riparian enhancement with the dredging plans.
4. **Prepare more detailed designs, cost estimates, and construction documents.** As issues concerning water quality and dredging become resolved, more detailed designs, cost estimates, phasing plans and construction specifications need to be prepared to guide site improvements.
5. **Obtain approvals and permits from necessary agencies.** After the design has been finalized and approved, permits will be necessary from agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, Division of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and City of Portland Planning Bureau for all work affecting the ponds or slough.
6. **Seek private and public funding and partnerships to assist in the implementation of the plan.** Possible sources include:
  - The Bureau of Environmental Services (land acquisition, for restoration and water quality improvement; committed to partially funding purchase of the Klein property)
  - Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation (committed to funding components of the fishery program)
  - Trust for Public Land (holds option and negotiating for purchase of the Klein property)
  - Multnomah County Natural Area Fund (committed to contributing \$75,000 for land acquisition)

- Metro's 1995 Open Space, Parks and Streams Measure (if passed in May of 1995, \$300,000 would be available for land acquisition of natural areas and open space in the Whitaker Ponds area)
- Portland Public Schools (explore possibility of conveying ponds area to an appropriate agency)
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program for dredging funds.
- Urban League of Portland (Urban Parks Program)
- Portland Parks & Recreation (coordinate with Urban Parks & Open Space Strategy)
- Pacific Power Employee Volunteers (continue partnership for involvement in project implementation)
- Metro's Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department fiscal year 1995-96 proposed budget includes \$11,000 for restoration projects
- Seek partnership with Multnomah County Drainage District for
  1. dredging funds from the Columbia Slough Flood Control Program
  2. funds to construct a boat ramp for joint use
- Federal grants for restoration
- Seek educational support from the Portland Public Schools and community colleges for outdoor school programs

The Priority Tasks table on page 43 illustrates a general sequencing of the Master Plan. This sequencing is based on undertaking Level I and II Environmental Testing, ongoing negotiations with property owners for the acquisition of key easements or parcels of land, and analyzing the feasibility of dredging. While most components of the plan are contingent upon fund raising over a 5-10 year time horizon, immediate site restoration activities can be undertaken by EnviroCorps members. The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation has also expressed a desire to establish a put and take fishery prior to dredging the ponds.

### Cost Estimate

The Cost Estimate for Site Improvements table on page 45 identifies a range of estimated costs required to implement the Master Plan. The cost estimates are for facilities development and do not include costs for land acquisition, operation, and maintenance activities, or stocking the ponds for a put and take fishery. An operation and maintenance budget should be developed when a site managing agency is identified. Costs for stocking the ponds for a put and take fishery could range from \$6,000 to \$10,000 a year (pers. comm. Al Smith, ODFW).

## Priority Tasks

Priority Tasks	Related Master Plan Recommendations
1. Conduct Level I & II Environmental Assessment on the Klein property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean up debris on parcel.</li> </ul>
2. Purchase Klein property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore appropriate owner/manager</li> <li>• Design and construct parking lot</li> <li>• Incorporate picnic areas</li> <li>• Build canoe/boat launch</li> </ul>
3. Establish put and take fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test the ponds for dredging and fishery potential</li> <li>• Upgrade culvert to weir on Whitaker Slough to raise water level by 2'</li> <li>• Remove carp</li> <li>• Clear zones in the north bank for fishing access</li> <li>• Establish trails from parking area to fishing areas</li> <li>• Establish fish stocking program</li> </ul>
4. Identify immediate activities for EnviroCorps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare detailed site design for initial site improvement activities</li> <li>• Clean up debris on the site</li> <li>• Clear blackberries</li> <li>• Enhance upland areas</li> <li>• Enhance buffer zones upon agreement with owners</li> <li>• Enhance riparian zones in areas not impacted by future dredging</li> </ul>
5. Determine feasibility of dredging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform dredge feasibility study</li> <li>• If dredging is feasible, collaborate with Multnomah County Drainage District to implement task.</li> </ul>

Priority Tasks	Related Master Plan Recommendations
<p>6. If dredging is feasible, establish work plan and implement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade one field on the south side of the pond for tournament play</li> <li>• Connect ponds by removing culvert and road</li> <li>• Remove north ball field</li> <li>• Dredge ponds</li> <li>• Create emergent wetlands</li> <li>• Enhance riparian zones</li> <li>• Build fishing piers</li> <li>• Stock ponds with appropriate species of fish</li> </ul>
<p>7. Purchase residential properties as they become available, subject to environmental testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine feasibility of renovating properties for an Environmental Learning Center, and residence for a Park Ranger</li> </ul>
<p>8. Continue negotiations with property owners for purchase or easements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance riparian and buffer zones as permitted</li> <li>• Extend trail on north side as permitted</li> </ul>
<p>9. Explore and identify appropriate owner/management/partnership for each task</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue discussions between Metro and Portland Public Schools</li> <li>• Explore the roles, responsibilities and other appropriate project partners for plan implementation</li> </ul>



## Cost Estimate for Site Improvements

Proposed Site Improvements	Estimated Cost Ranges
Dredge Feasibility Study	\$20,000 - \$30,000
Design & construct parking lot & picnic area	\$20,000 - \$25,000
Design & construct canoe launch at Slough	\$10,000 - \$25,000
Design & construct (2) fishing piers (floating pier \$25/sf)	\$40,000
Design & upgrade weir on Whitaker Slough	\$1,000 - \$3,000
Remove carp from Ponds	\$200
Remove Culvert between Ponds and dredge Ponds to establish longterm warmwater fishery	\$150,000
Remove north ballfield <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regrade</li> <li>• remove fencing and backstop</li> <li>• 15 trees replanted</li> </ul>	\$20,000 - \$25,000
Design and construct trails, viewpoints, interpretive signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• crushed rock paths</li> <li>• 5 signs @ \$350 ea.</li> <li>• 3 benches @ \$700 ea.</li> </ul>	\$10,000
Design and create emergent wetlands, enhance riparian buffers and upland areas	\$30,000
Upgrade ballfield on South side of ponds to tournament level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• regrade/fill</li> <li>• fine grade</li> <li>• seed</li> <li>• reuse existing fence</li> <li>• 2 new backstops and dugout</li> </ul>	\$50,000 - \$54,000
Upgrade existing residence for Environmental Learning Center	\$50,000 - \$75,000
Upgrade existing residence for Park Ranger residence	\$10,000
Design & construct bio-swale including stormwater pipe disconnect	\$45,000 - \$60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$406,200 - \$557,200</b>

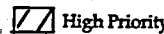

The above site improvements do not include land acquisition costs or annual operations and maintenance costs. Site improvements would only occur after the associated lands were in public ownership.

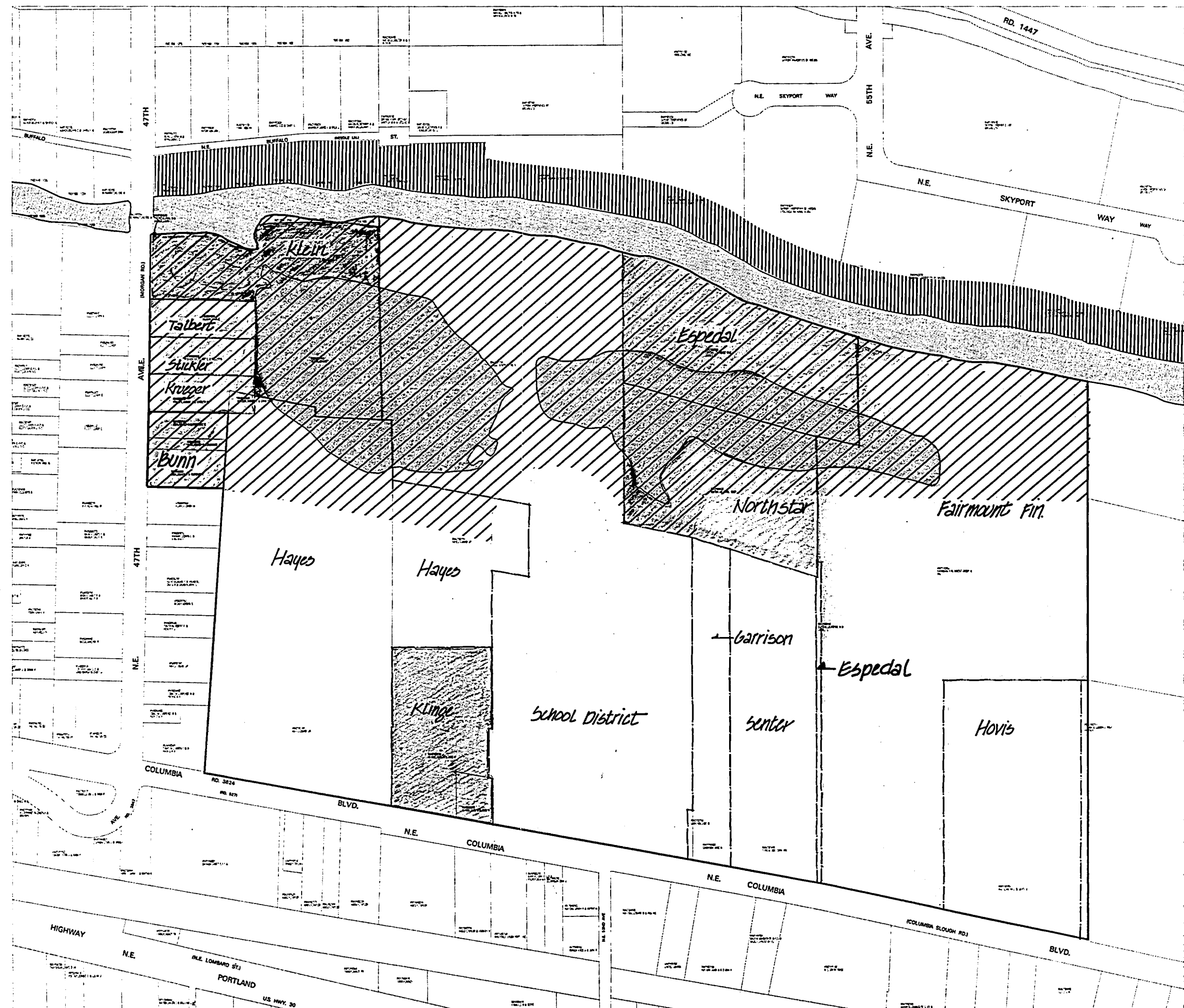


# Whitaker Ponds

Northeast Portland

## Priority Lands for Plan Implementation

-  High Priority
-  Secondary Priority



SOURCES:  
PARCEL MAP  
City of Beaverton, Multnomah, Oregon City and Tualatin  
Source: City, 1994.  
Map accuracy: certified point positional accuracy to plus or minus five feet or better.  
Data collection date: 11-1997  
Multnomah County State of Oregon  
Source: Multnomah County Assessor, 1994.  
Map accuracy: based on existing orthorectified. Line work derived using orthorectified imagery.  
Boundary of region:  
Source: Portland General Electric and Metro, 1994.  
Map accuracy: ground point positional accuracy to plus or minus ten feet.  
Data collection date: 11-1997, 11-2007 or 11-2007



400 NE Grand Ave  
Portland, OR 97232-2736  
(503) 797-1700



## VI. Appendix



Wapato *Sagittaria latifolia*

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## **Contents of Appendix**

**Agreement between Portland Public Schools and Metro**

**Metro Council Resolution Approving the Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan**

**Public Comment Letters on Draft Master Plan and Metro's Response Letters**

**Public Involvement Information**

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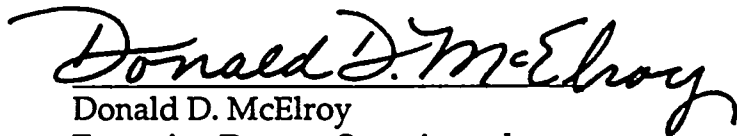
**Agreement Between Portland Public Schools and Metro**

## AGREEMENT IN CONCEPT BETWEEN PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND METRO

Metro proposes to lead the collective development of a management plan for the ponds on the Whitaker site, 5135 NE Columbia Boulevard, ("Whitaker") and their natural surroundings. Metro envisions this plan incorporating natural restoration, environmental education, and natural resources stewardship, while providing appropriate recreational opportunities. We wish to lead all stakeholders in and around this site in developing a long-term management plan that will be developed with consensus. Given this proposal is in the developmental stage, the undersigned agrees to:

- (1) support the concept of developing the ponds area located on the "Whitaker" site for environmental education and natural resources stewardship;
- (2) cooperate in the development of a management plan for the site;
- (3) support programs oriented toward community access to the "Whitaker" ponds site compatible with the District's policies, that may include a proposed program for developing the ponds for inner-city kids fishing;
- (4) propose that "Whitaker" property immediately surrounding the ponds not be considered surplus in the foreseeable future; (Also, recommended would be -- in the unlikely event the District's adjacent property to the pond area should be disposed of -- the Metro Greenspaces would be offered the first option to buy the pond area portion.)
- (5) designate a contact person for this project.

No monetary commitment is being requested or implied. Ultimately, a management plan will be developed that will enhance the programs of participants while conserving diminishing resources.



Donald D. McElroy  
Executive Deputy Superintendent  
Portland Public Schools

4/28/94  
Date

---

**Metro Council Resolution Approving the Whitaker Ponds  
Concept Master Plan**

(To be provided at a later date)



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**Public Comment Letters on Draft Master Plan  
and Metro's Response Letters**



**METRO**

**OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW  
Draft WHITAKER PONDS CONCEPT MASTER PLAN  
February 21, 1995**

**Action:** You are invited to review and provide written comments on Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department's Draft Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan (copy enclosed). Written comments on the Draft Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan will be accepted until 5:00 pm on March 14, 1995. Please mail written comments to Jane Hart, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232-2736.

**Future Opportunities for Public Involvement:** Following the close of the public comment period for the Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan, a Final Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan will be prepared. When the Final Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan is available for distribution, it will be presented to the Metro Council for approval and adoption by Resolution at a public hearing. You will receive written notice when the Final Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan is available and the date that it will be presented at a Metro Council Public Hearing.

**For Further Information:** If you have any questions on this Draft Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan, please contact me at (503) 797-1585.

Jane Hart  
Project Manager  
Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department

Enclosure:  
Draft Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan

March 6, 1995

DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND  
WILDLIFE



Jane Hart  
Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department  
Metro  
600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

SALEM DISTRICT  
OFFICE

Re: Comments on Draft Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan

These comments are provided to supplement the input I provided as a member of the Whitaker Ponds Advisory Panel during development of the draft plan.

#### Page 39 - Public Access and Use

Gating the entrance to the parking area off 47th Avenue and securing it at night is an acceptable security measure. However, the gate should be opened early enough and closed late enough to permit fishing and wildlife viewing during the early morning and evening hours when these activities are often most productive. I suggest closing the gate from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

#### Page 40 - Sediment Removal (Dredging)

My primary concern with the shallow depths is lack of space for fish production and angling, rather than high temperatures. High temperatures alone rarely kill warmwater game fish or prevent reproduction. Usually fish kills are caused by oxygen depletion. This occurs more often in a small volume of water.

The existing silt bottom is unsuitable for spawning by warmwater game fish and limits the diversity of invertebrates available for fish food.

#### Page 40 - Emergent Wetland Enhancement

Using the proposed West Pond weir to raise and lower the water level to simulate seasonal fluctuations may not be compatible with maintaining fish populations if depths are only marginally adequate for fish at the maximum water level.



4412 Silverton Road NE  
Salem, OR 97305  
(503) 378-6925  
FAX (503) 378-6233

Page 43 - Warmwater Fisheries

The outlet dam should be designed to prevent movement of undesirable fish from the slough into the West Pond

The issue of fishing access from floating devices isn't addressed. I believe that non-motorized craft could be permitted on the West Pond, at least until ponds are connected, without conflicting with other uses. However I believe I recall some opposition within the advisory panel to allowing water access. Perhaps you have some notes on this issue from public or advisory panel meetings. I'm sure that it will come up if a fishery is provided. Those who use float tubes will want a ruling on these devices.

Page 50 - Plan Implementation

The correct title of this agency's potential funding source is the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program.

Page 51 - Priority Tasks

Item 3 - Establish put and take fishery.

Second in priority to raising the water level should be placement of fishing piers. These are needed from the outset to provide the physically challenged with access to deeper, fish-holding water. Piers should be designed for removal during dredging. Since School District policy won't allow placement of piers, it will be necessary for Metro to negotiate an agreement with the district to alleviate their concerns about liability.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in development of the plan and to review this draft.

*Kin Daily*  
Kin Daily  
Warmwater Fish Biologist



# CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 S.W. Fifth Ave., Room 400, Portland, Oregon 97204-1972  
(503) 823-7740, FAX (503) 823-6995

March 15, 1995

Jane Hart  
Metro  
600 N.E. Grand Avenue  
Portland  
Oregon 97232-2736

Dear Jane:

**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON DRAFT WHITAKER PONDS CONCEPT  
MASTER PLAN**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the above-referenced plan. The City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) strongly supports this restoration plan. However, we feel that some substantive issues have not been addressed in the Concept Master Plan.

BES and Metro have had discussions regarding the design and construction of a pollution reduction facility, such as wetlands,/ swales, to passively treat stormwater entering the west end of Whitaker Pond. Incorporation of these facilities are important to the long range vision of the watershed program. However, it should be noted that stormwater pollution reduction facilities are not allowed in the environmental conservation overlay zone. We may be able to discuss this issue with the City's Bureau of Planning at a future date.

BES is conducting a sediment remedial investigation / feasibility study of the Columbia Slough. This project aims to determine the nature and extent of sediment contamination, determine types and levels of risks, and propose remedial actions to mitigate risk at high risk locations. We have just completed the screening level risk assessment (SLRA) of 300 sites in the Upper and Lower Slough. The SLRA results show that the Whitaker Ponds are adjacent to a potentially high risk site in the Slough. We recommend that sediments from the Whitaker ponds be tested for contamination to ensure that fishery and other aquatic life will not be adversely impacted, and that fish from the ponds are safe for consumption. Please feel free to call Chee Choy, Project Manager of the Sediment Project, at 823-5310 about the status of the sediment study.

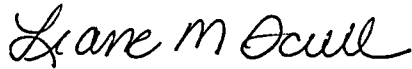
The Oregon Health Division has issued a health advisory against consuming fish caught from the Columbia Slough because PCBs have been found in fish tissues. The recently completed screening level risk assessment of the Columbia Slough Sediment Project also found contaminants such as PCBs, DDE, and arsenic in fish caught from the Slough. These contaminants may pose potential health risk to humans. The Whitaker Pond Master Plan envisions a put and take warmwater fishery. Although we think this is a great goal to

Jane Hart  
Metro  
March 15, 1995  
Page 2

achieve, caution is warranted in the development of the warmwater fishery. In addition, the hydrology of the ponds and outfall structure need further consideration so that there is no migration of fish between the Slough and the ponds. The design of the Whitaker Ponds Project should discourage fishing from the Slough.

In summary, BES strongly supports this project shown by our partnership with Metro on site development. We believe that addressing the above points will ensure an improved final product that is technically viable from an environmental perspective.

Sincerely,



Liane M. Scull, P.E.  
Columbia Slough Watershed Manager



**METRO**

Kin Daily  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4412 Silverton Rd., NE  
Salem, OR 97305

Dear Kin:

May 11, 1995

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO MARCH 6, 1995 COMMENT LETTER ON DRAFT  
WHITAKER PONDS CONCEPT MASTER PLAN**

Thank you for your March 6, 1995 comment letter on the Draft Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan. We appreciate the time you have taken to provide your valuable input. This letter will address your comments and concerns and identify any related changes that will be made in the Final Whitaker Ponds Master Plan. Comments will be addressed in the order that they were raised in your letter.

1. Public Access and Use

The final Master Plan will include a statement that the park gate should be open early enough and closed late enough to allow ample opportunity for fishing and wildlife viewing when these activities are most productive. Exact times will need to be established at a future date when a managing agency has been identified. For your information, other Metro parks open and close their gates at legal sunrise and legal sunset.

2. Sediment Removal (Dredging)

Language reflecting your primary concerns with the shallow depths of the ponds will be included in the final Master Plan in Chapter 4 under Sediment Removal. Regarding oxygen depletion, a pre-development monitoring plan will be developed for the ponds this summer to begin to characterize the parameters required to support a temporary put-and take-fishery.

3. Emergent Wetland Enhancement

The final Master Plan will qualify the emergent wetland enhancement discussion with the statement that the fluctuating water levels would be within a range that would not detrimentally impact a fishery. A proposed enhancement plan involving fluctuating water levels would require close coordination with ODFW.

#### 4. Warmwater Fisheries

We agree that in development of a warmwater fishery, every precaution must be taken to eliminate the migration of potentially contaminated fish from the Columbia Slough and Whitaker Slough into the Whitaker Ponds. The draft Master Plan recommends that the culvert between the Whitaker Slough and the west pond be upgraded, which would eliminate movement of water and fish from the Whitaker Slough into the pond system.

#### 5. Fishing access from floating devices.

Boat usage on the ponds was not recommend as a master plan element in the draft Master Plan. There are several reasons for that policy and we agree that the final Master Plan should be explicit about boat usage. As you know the Whitaker Ponds Master Plan attempts to balance public use of the natural area with wildlife habitat enhancement and protection. In order to accomplish that balance, the draft Plan recommends enhancing buffer zones on the south side of the ponds and prohibiting public access in those areas. Prohibiting public access on the south side of the ponds also meets the goal of providing assurances to adjacent industrial neighbors regarding liability and security issues. If boats and float tubes were allowed on the west pond there would be no way to prevent them from inadvertently disturbing wildlife living near the southern pond edge or from debarking on private property. In addition, due to the relatively small size of the pond, there could be conflict between boat and bank anglers.

If the dredging proves feasible, and the two ponds were joined by removing the existing culvert, the east pond would serve as a refuge and spawning area for fish. With no barrier between the west and east ponds it would be impossible to allow boating on the west pond and prevent it on the east pond. If boating had been allowed on the west pond it would be extremely difficult to reverse the policy when the two ponds were joined.

#### 6. Plan Implementation

The final Master Plan will reflect the correct program name of ODFW's potential funding source.

#### 7. Priority Tasks

The draft Master Plan identifies the dredge feasibility study as a first priority. The dredge feasibility study would determine whether fishing piers should go in the ponds before or after dredging. Regardless of the results of the dredge feasibility study, bank angling opportunities would be developed following the raising of the water levels.



As you mentioned, the School District's policy does not allow placement of fishing piers. Your concern is addressed in Chapter 4 under Components of the Master Plan. In the section on Public Access and Use it is recommended that Metro and the School District explore the approach of Metro being solely responsible for management of activities north of the ponds while the School District continue to be solely responsible for the facilities and uses south of the ponds. In the section on Warmwater Fisheries, it is recommended that an agreement be explored with the Portland Public Schools that would remove them from their concerns about liability. Metro would favor a decision by the School District to convey the property in the pond area to Metro, thereby releasing the school district of liability and allowing the use of fishing piers. Fishing piers would meet requirements of ADA.

We hope that your concerns have been fully addressed with this letter. Should you need further clarification on any of the issues, please call me at 797-1585.

Sincerely,



Jane Hart, Project Manager  
Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department

CC: Al Smith, ODFW



Liane Scull  
City of Portland Environmental Services  
1120 SW 5th Ave., Room 400  
Portland, OR 97204

**METRO**

May 9, 1995

Dear Liane:

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO MARCH 15, 1995 COMMENT LETTER ON  
DRAFT WHITAKER PONDS CONCEPT MASTER PLAN**

Thank you for your March 15 comment letter on the Draft Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan. We appreciate the time you have taken to provide input into this planning process. This letter will address your comments and concerns and identify any related changes that will be made in the Final Whitaker Ponds Master Plan. Comments will be addressed in the order that they were raised in your letter.

1. Design and construction of a pollution reduction facility in the Environmental Conservation Overlay Zone.

Following up on our recent phone conversation, construction of the proposed stormwater reduction facility (bioswale) is consistent with the type of development allowed in environmental conservation zones in the location of Whitaker Ponds. Of course, project approval would be subject to Environmental Zone Approval Criteria contained in Chapter 33.430.250 of the City's development code and an environmental review by the Planning Bureau. The City's Environmental Zone Approval Criteria will be referenced under *Zoning* in the *Existing Conditions Chapter* of the final Master Plan.

2. Sediment Sampling of the Whitaker Ponds.

Your recommendation that sediments from Whitaker Ponds be tested for contamination is consistent with recommendations outlined in Chapter 5 of the Draft Master Plan. A first priority task called out in that Chapter is to perform water quality and sediment sampling to determine suitability of the ponds for an initial fish stocking program and longer term self-sustaining warmwater fishery. The final Master Plan will contain a statement that sediment sampling of the Whitaker Ponds will be coordinated with the Screening-Level Risk Assessment that BES conducted as part of the Sediment Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Columbia Slough.

3. Development of Warmwater Fishery.

We agree that in development of a warmwater fishery, every precaution must be taken to eliminate the migration of potentially contaminated fish from the Columbia Slough and Whitaker Slough into the Whitaker Ponds. In light of the existing health advisory against consuming fish caught from the Columbia Slough, the Whitaker Ponds system will need to be completely separated from the Slough prior to stocking the ponds with healthy fish. The draft Master Plan recommends that the culvert between the Whitaker Slough and the west pond be upgraded to a weir, which would eliminate movement of water and fish from the Whitaker Slough into the pond system. Chapter 4 of the final Master Plan will discuss the design requirements of the weir including the need to eliminate the possibility of fish migrating from the Whitaker Slough into the ponds.

We hope that your concerns have been fully addressed with this letter. Should you need further clarification on any of the issues discussed in this letter, please call me at 797-1585.

Sincerely,



Jane Hart, Project Manager  
Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department

CC: Chee Choy, City of Portland, BES

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**Public Involvement Information**

# NEWS RELEASE

600 NORTHEAST GRAND AVENUE | PORTLAND, OREGON 97232 2736  
TEL 503 797 1510 | FAX 503 797 1799



**METRO**

From the Office of Public and Government Relations  
Merrie Waylett, director, (503) 797-1790

Dec. 6, 1994

For immediate release

For more information, call Jane Hart at (503) 797-1585

## **Whitaker ponds in Northeast Portland focus of community meeting**

A community workshop scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 14, will solicit ideas and comments about the future management of a northeast Portland greenspace.

The meeting, hosted by Metro, Portland Public Schools and EnviroCorps, is being held to discuss plans to enhance and protect the Whitaker ponds adjacent to the Columbia Slough and part of the old Whitaker School grounds.

The workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at Whitaker Middle School Cafeteria, 5700 NE 39th Ave., Portland.

The study area considered encompasses about 90 acres of publicly and privately held land bordered by the Columbia Slough, Northeast 47th Avenue, Northeast Columbia Boulevard and the eastern edge of the ponds. The site offers a unique opportunity to maintain the existing recreational use and provide watershed protection to the slough, wildlife habitat and public access.

Representatives of Metro, Portland Public Schools, Cully Neighborhood Association, Lakeside Little League, EnviroCorps, the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and the Trust for Public Land will be on hand for presentations and to lead the discussion.

###

THE OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1994

## **Whitaker Ponds program community meeting topic**

A community meeting to discuss restoration of Whitaker Ponds in Northeast Portland is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Whitaker Middle School, 5700 N.E. 39th Ave.

The session will be held by Metro, Portland Public Schools and EnviroCorps, a branch of the national AmeriCorps effort. The agencies are working together to restore the 90-acre areas of land that is bordered by the Columbia Slough, Northeast 47th Avenue and Northeast Columbia Boulevard.

The site offers the opportunity to maintain existing recreational uses and provide protection to the slough and enhance wildlife habitat and public access.

# NOTICE

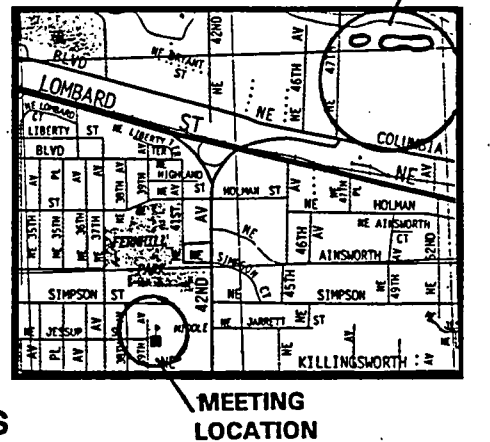
## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Now's the time to get involved! Please join us to learn about plans to improve a special natural area in Northeast Portland. We want to hear your ideas about the long-term management of the Whitaker Ponds, located near the old Whitaker School in Northeast Portland.

**WHAT:** A community workshop to receive public input on long-term management goals for the Whitaker Ponds area of the old Whitaker School. Meeting sponsors include Portland Public Schools, EnviroCorps and Metro.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, December 14, 1994  
6:00pm to 8:00pm

**WHERE:** Whitaker Middle School  
The Cafeteria  
5700 NE 39th Avenue  
Portland, OR



### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- View maps and aerial photographs of the Whitaker Ponds Study Area.
- Hear presentations from: Portland Public Schools, Cully Neighborhood Association, Lakeside Little League, EnviroCorps (Recipients of President Clinton's Citizenship Grant), Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Trust for Public Land, and Metro.
- Share your verbal histories and old photographs of the Whitaker Ponds area.
- Provide your ideas and comments to an independent review panel responsible for recommending a concept design for the Whitaker Ponds area.
- Learn about the next steps in the project and your opportunities for future involvement in the development of the management plan.

*Refreshments will be served.*

**For additional information, call Jane Hart at Metro 797-1585.**

# AGENDA

for the

## WHITAKER PONDS MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, 1994, 6-8pm  
Whitaker Middle School Cafeteria, 5700 NE 39th Ave.

- |  |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| 1. Welcome   | Metro Councilor Ed Washington                                  | 6:00-6:05 |
| 2. Where are the Whitaker Ponds?<br>Why are we here tonight?<br>What are the next steps? | Jane Hart, Metro, Regional Parks<br>and Greenspaces Department | 6:05-6:15 |
| 3. Advisory Panel Introductions  | Sally Creasman, Teacher,<br>Madison High School                | 6:15-6:30 |
| 4. Community Presentations   |  | 6:30-6:45 |
| Lakeside Little League   | Karen Schade, Board President                                  |           |
| EnviroCorps Representatives  | Jim Desmond, Project Coordinator                               |           |
| Trust for Public Land  |  |           |
| 5. Consultant Presentation   | Walker & Macy, SRI/Shapiro                                     | 6:45-7:00 |
| Existing conditions of the Whitaker Ponds study area                                     |  |           |
| 6. Receive Public Input on Whitaker Ponds<br>Management Plan Goals                       |  | 7:00-7:55 |
| <u>We want to hear your QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, and COMMENTS</u>                            |  |           |
| 7. Closing Remarks   | Councilor Ed Washington  | 7:55-8:00 |



# Walker & Macy

111 SW Oak Street 200  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Phone 503-228-3122  
fax 503-273-9878

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Jane Hart/Metro

FROM: Bennett Burns/Walker & Macy

RE: Whitaker Ponds Public Meeting of 12-14-94

JOB #: 9472

DATE: December 21, 1994

COPIES: Doug Macy, John Van Staveren

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- I. The meeting was kicked off with comments by Metro Councilor Ed Washington. Jane Hart then provided project background, goals, and next steps for public involvement.

Project goals include:

- Restore the natural resources on the site.
- Provide environmental education and stewardship opportunities.
- Encourage community access and use through a variety of programs.
- Incorporate the needs and concerns of all property owners and users.
- Improve water quality.

The next steps in the Whitaker Ponds management planning process are included at the end of this memo.

- II. The Advisory Panel members were then introduced and each made a brief statement as to their interest in the project. Panel members included:
- Sally Creasman- Madison High School  
Sally is a teacher at Madison High School and a member of Columbia Slough Watershed Council. The focus of her interest in the project is on providing environmental education opportunities for school children.
  - Erwin Bergman- Cully Neighborhood Association  
Erwin is a resident in the nearby Cully Neighborhood and is very interested in improving pedestrian access to the park and enhancing the area as a unique natural area to increase livability and provide a natural "sanctuary" for the densely populated northeast residents.

- Ned Hayes Jr.- Property Owner  
Ned owns the land south of the western pond. This property has been leased to Voith Sulzer for numerous years and the tenant has the option to buy the property. Ned supports the project but is concerned with balancing industrial use with wildlife enhancement, public access and recreation.
- Pamela Brown- Portland Public Schools  
Metro is currently working cooperatively with Portland Public Schools to utilize the defunct Whitaker School site for natural area enhancement, environmental stewardship, and increased community access. Pamela is the party representing Portland Public Schools in the development of the Management Plan.
- Kim MacColl Jr.- Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation  
Kim has been working with Metro, ODFW and the City of Portland for over 3 years to develop an area to provide inner city kids with fishing, outdoor recreation, and educational opportunities. The organization has agreed to provide funding for the project for construction of docks, fencing, habitat improvement, and water quality enhancement.
- Edna Mae Pittman- Concordia Neighborhood Association  
Edna Mae is a resident in the nearby Concordia Neighborhood and is very interested in developing the area as a natural outlet for the park deficient northeast neighborhoods.
- Kin Daily- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Kin is interested in enhancing wildlife opportunities in urban areas and has been working with the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation to develop a warm water fisheries at this site. Kin would prefer to develop the fishery on the western pond while protecting the eastern pond for enhanced wildlife value.

III. Brief presentations were made from community organizations that have a vested interest in the project:

- Lakeside Little League- Karen Schade  
This Little League organization utilizes the existing ball fields at Whitaker School during the softball season which lasts from February to August. A one-week tournament is held in August during which the area receives participants and spectators from across the northwest. At present time, all existing fields are utilized.
- AmeriCorps  
AmeriCorps, a recently created national program patterned after the Peace Corps and Vista, is sponsoring approximately 20 young adults to restore wildlife habitats and urban greenspaces. In addition to gaining work experience, the AmeriCorps volunteers will earn tuition credit to be applied to the college of their choice. At Whitaker Ponds, volunteers will be assisting in plan development as well as implementation of restoration strategies.

- Trust For Public Land- Jim Desmond  
The Trust For Public Land has been actively involved in negotiations to purchase the Klien property north of the western pond, which contains a debris dump. This parcel is key to the management plan since it provides access off 47th Avenue and is contiguous with the School District property.
- IV. An analysis of the existing conditions was presented by Walker & Macy and SRI/SHAPIRO. Maps describing zoning, ownership, existing use patterns and vegetative communities were discussed. It was pointed out that the ponds were shallower than originally presumed and that an existing culvert is spewing oil into the ponds. The origin of this culvert is unclear. It was also pointed out that the area could benefit from more emergent wetlands and an enhanced riparian zone.
- V. The public discussion portion of the evening produced many comments and concerns as summarized below:
- The ponds provide important flood storage capacity during times of heavy rain.
  - Natural springs were historically identified as providing a source of fresh water for the ponds.
  - The surrounding area does not contain sewers, which may have effected ground water quality.
  - The industrial area to the south may have had an impact on water quality in the ponds.
  - A concern was expressed about contaminants in the silt. Testing needs to be conducted on the sediments.
  - Planting of large trees is needed on the south side of the ponds to provide shade and improve habitat.
  - Whitaker School is used heavily for police training operations. Training is focused in the classroom currently, but there may be a need to use the ponds for water training.
  - Police training at Whitaker School may help deter vandalism.
  - A police training operation may not balance with the natural character of the site.
  - Little League currently uses all existing fields for practice or games.
  - 1000 people per day come to the site to watch softball during tournaments.
  - The southernmost field is used for disadvantaged athletes. It is the most accessible.
  - It may be desirable to relocate the northernmost ballfield to create a continuous open space on the north side.

- The site is not completely secure.
- There have been problems with gang vandalism.
- Industrial owners to the south have a concern about access, liability, and safety on their property. Access needs to be controlled on the south side of the ponds.
- Voith Sulzer has possible plans for expansion to the north towards the ponds. The Management Plan must accommodate buffering, security, and allow for industrial growth.
- A warm water fishery would be an important recreational resource for urban youths.
- Provide an accessible dock for wheelchair bound anglers.
- The recent restoration project was a good effort and utilized an appropriate palette of natives, but the planting should look more natural with larger drifts of similar species.
- Some blackberries could be left as barriers.
- English ivy is invasive and should not be planted.
- Pedestrian access is needed from neighborhoods to the south.
- Look at access to the site through the dump area. 47th Avenue could provide a safer access point.
- Multnomah County Drainage District needs access to the slough for flood control and clean up.
- Consider routing a pedestrian path around both lakes.
- Incorporate benches and viewing blinds along the trail.

VI. Next Steps in the Whitaker Ponds Management Planning Process

1. December 15 - January 12, 1995:  
Based on public input at december 14th community workshop, EnviroCorps will work with Metro consultant to develop 2 to 3 conceptual illustrations of the proposed improvements to the Whitaker Ponds Management Planning study area.
2. January 12, 1995:  
Receive public input on the conceptual drawings of proposed improvements to the Whitaker Ponds Management Planning study area. Meeting Objective: Reach consensus on a conceptual design that reflects Management Plan goals.

3. January 12, 1995:  
Advisory Panel recommends conceptual design for the Whitaker Ponds Management Plan.
4. January 12-January 26:  
Consultant refines selected concept and develops narrative for the management plan document.
5. January 26, 1995:  
Draft final Management Plan released for public review. Consultant presents draft final Management Plan to Metro Council.
6. February 15, 1995:  
Close of public comment period for draft final Management Plan.
7. February 26, 1995:  
Final Management Plan document available to public.

# NOTICE

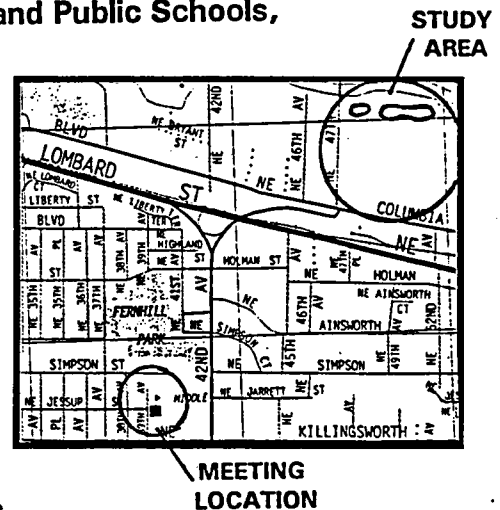
## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Come view the design drawings for proposed future uses of the Whitaker Ponds study area near the old Whitaker School in NE Portland. We want to know if your ideas and concerns about the study area have been incorporated into the design drawings.

**WHAT:** A community workshop to review and discuss design drawings of proposed future uses in the Whitaker Ponds study area. Public input at this meeting will help shape a preferred design upon which to develop the Whitaker Ponds Management Plan. Meeting sponsors include Portland Public Schools, EnviroCorps and Metro.

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 12, 1995  
7:00pm to 9:00pm

**WHERE:** The Whitaker Middle School  
The Cafeteria  
5700 NE 39th Avenue  
Portland, OR



### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Review conceptual drawings that propose various environmental restoration and education opportunities and recreational uses for the Whitaker Ponds Study Area.
- ◆ Provide your ideas and comments about the designs to an independent review panel responsible for recommending a concept design for the Whitaker Ponds study area.
- ◆ Learn about the next steps in the project and your opportunities for future involvement in development of the management plan.

*Refreshments will be served.*

For additional information, call Jane Hart at Metro 797-1585.

# AGENDA

for the

## WHITAKER PONDS COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Thursday, January 12, 1995, 7-9pm  
Whitaker Middle School Cafeteria, 5700 NE 39th Ave.

- |  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| 1. Welcome   | Metro Councilor Ed Washington                           | 7:00-7:05 |
| 2. Progress Report   | Jane Hart, Metro Project Manager                        | 7:05-7:15 |
| 3. Advisory Panel Report   | Erwin Bergman, member Cully<br>Neighborhood Association | 7:15-7:20 |
| 4. Consultant Presentation   | Bennett Burns and Doug Macy,<br>Walker & Macy           | 7:20-7:40 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review existing conditions</li><li>• Review management plan goals</li><li>• Summarize public input received to date</li><li>• Review resource management plan alternatives</li></ul> |   |           |
| 5. EnviroCorps Update  | Brian Elliott and Karen Shay,<br>EnviroCorps members    | 7:40-7:45 |
| 6. Receive Public Input on Whitaker Ponds Resource<br>Management Plan Alternatives   |   | 7:45-8:55 |
| <p>This is the opportunity to share your ideas and concerns about the various resource management plan alternatives for the Whitaker Ponds study area.</p>   |   |           |
| 7. Closing Remarks   | Councilor Ed Washington                                 | 8:55-9:00 |

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Jane Hart/Metro  
**FROM:** Bennett Burns/Walker & Macy  
**DATE:** January 17, 1995  
**RE:** Whitaker Ponds Public Meeting of 1-12-95

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- I. The meeting was initiated with opening comments by Metro Councilor Ed Washington. Jane Hart then recapped the project background, the planning process to date, and indicated the next steps for public involvement.
- II. Erwin Bergman, member of the Cully Neighborhood Association and advisory panel, outlined the Advisory Panel's role in the plan development. Following the public meeting, the panel will meet at the Whitaker Pond site to discuss the three alternative concepts and then make their recommendation to Metro on the preferred concept. The panel will also be involved in reviewing the draft management plan and will attend the final Metro council hearing on the plan.
- III. The site analysis maps that were presented at the December 14th meeting were summarized by Walker & Macy to help familiarize all members of the audience with the project. The maps described zoning, ownership, existing use patterns, and vegetative communities.
- IV. Project goals were recapped with two new goals added since the last meeting. Project goals include:
  - Restore the natural resources of the site.
  - Provide environmental education and stewardship opportunities.
  - Encourage community access and use through a variety of programs.
  - Incorporate the needs and concerns of all property owners and users.
  - Improve water quality.
  - Insure compatibility between industrial activities and recreational users.



- V. Three alternative concepts for natural resource management were presented by Doug Macy. The concepts illustrated zones for different types of activities and represented a range in the intensity of active recreation verses natural resource protection and enhancement.

The alternatives were designed to allow for phasing over time, but with the intent of establishing a long range vision for site development.

Due to site constraints, common goals and overall concerns, each of the alternatives possesses a set of common features, which include:

- Provision of a primary access to the site off 47th Avenue with parking for 40 cars. This provides a safer vehicular entry than can be offered along Columbia Boulevard.
- Incorporation of water quality enhancement measures. To improve water quality in the ponds, stormwater runoff from all new impervious surfaces should be treated through bioswales. In addition, point source pollutants should be identified and eliminated.
- Commitment to restoring and enhancing riparian and upland habitats. Through creating more diversity in vegetative communities, wildlife habitat can be significantly improved.
- Provision of environmental education opportunities. Wildlife viewing areas, interpretive signage, and educational programs should be incorporated into the overall management of the site.
- Provision of a buffer between industrial users and recreational users. To maximize safety, security, and reduce the conflict between human use and industrial activity, no public access is proposed on the southern portion of the ponds, with the exception of the school district property. With the cooperation of private owners, these buffer zones would be planted heavily to enhance riparian habitats and increase screening of industry.

The three alternatives are described below:

- (A) Active Recreation/Natural Resource Enhancement  
This concept involves the least amount of alteration to the site and provides the greatest amount of active recreation while also providing for restoration of riparian and upland zones. Key factors include:

- No dredging of the ponds. The pond depths and wetland emergent zones remain unchanged, thus a fisheries program is not recommended.
- The northernmost (tournament level) ballfield is removed and the area is developed into a picnic area. To replace a tournament level field, one of the southern fields would be regraded and fences for tournament activity.
- A series of trail loops are provided throughout the site with view points by the ponds.

(B) Active Recreation/Fisheries/Natural Resource Enhancement

This concept involves dredging the ponds and connecting both ponds into a continuous water body. Key features include:

- Creation of warm water fisheries. Deep pools 8-10' would be created to improve fish habitat, fishing piers would be added to the west pond, and the east pond would be enhanced for juvenile fish rearing habitat.
- No pedestrian connection would be provided between the northern portion of the site and the southern portion.
- The northernmost (tournament level) ballfield is removed and the area is developed into a picnic area. To replace a tournament level field, one of the southern fields would be regraded and fences for tournament activity.
- The northern portion would be restored and enhanced for wildlife habitat and environmental education. Access to the eastern pond would be limited.
- The southern portion of the School District property would continue to be used for softball.

(C) Natural Resource Enhancement Fisheries/Environmental Education.

The third alternative sets a long range vision of relocating the Little League activity to another location once another location has been identified and focuses management on natural resource enhancement and environmental education. Key features include:

- Creation of warm water fisheries through dredging the ponds and incorporating fishing piers. The two ponds would be connected, but a pedestrian bridge would link both sides.

- The eastern pond would be enhanced for juvenile fish rearing and habitat protection. Access would be restricted to one viewpoint along the eastern pond.
- An environmental learning center would be incorporated into a wing of the old Whitaker School, with trails radiating from the center to numerous vegetative zones and interpretive stations.
- The portion of the School District property presently containing ballfields would be restored into an arboretum-type planting, containing native meadows, native forests, and shrub communities. The area could be used for outdoor classrooms and demonstration projects.

VI. EnviroCorps members Brian Elliot and Karen Shay described the restoration measures that they could undertake, to implement the preferred concept plan, assuming Metro purchases the Klein property (junkyard). These measures include:

- Clean-up of the northern bank of the western pond to remove concrete and debris.
- Planting of riparian and upland plant communities on the school property and along buffer zones as negotiated with property owners.
- Construction of trails and observation points.

VII. The discussion of the alternatives generated much discussion. Of particular concern, was the overall reduction in the number of ballfields from five to four. Little League sponsors felt four fields would not be adequate to meet the seasonal demands, and were strongly opposed to any plan that reduced their playing opportunities. However, everyone supported the notion of relocating the northernmost field as long as a nearby site could be acquired for its relocation.

Other public comments on the alternatives included:

- Support of the concept to consolidate active recreation and allow the northern portion of the site to be managed for wildlife and natural resource protection.
- Support of establishment of warm water fishery.
  - Would it be possible to raise the water level of the pond instead of dredging? According to SRI, it is only possible to raise the water level by 2-3' which is insufficient for a fisheries.
  - If we could block fish passage into the slough, it might help create a more contained fishery.

- Important to balance all concerns and interests.
- Support of establishing an environmental education program. This would be a good location for school groups and community groups.
- Support the idea of zoning different uses for the north and south portions of the site, but a pedestrian connection would be helpful.
- More trails are needed for community enjoyment.
- Concern for liability issues for property owners. Easement and purchase agreements need to be clearly defined.

VIII. Next steps in the Planning Process.

- (A) January 18, 1995. Advisory panel meets at the site and recommends conceptual design for the Whitaker Ponds Management Plan
- (B) January 18-February 9, 1995: Consultant refines selected concept and develops narrative for the Management Plan document.
- (C) February 9, 1995: Draft final Management Plan released for public review.
- (D) Mid february, 1995: Consultant presents draft final Management Plan to Metro Council. Date to be determined.
- (E) February 23, 1995: Close of public comment period for draft final Management Plan.
- (F) Early March 1995: Final Management Plan document available to public. Date to be determined.

Copy: John Van Staveren

BB/ch

# AmeriCorps to help restore some of Columbia Slough

■ Workers in the new program will receive a small monthly wage and college tuition credits for their part in the project

By **JOE FITZGIBBON**

*Correspondent, The Oregonian*

At least two dozen of President Clinton's newly created AmeriCorps workers will be helping restore portions of the Columbia Slough before the end of summer.

On Monday, President Clinton announced the creation of AmeriCorps, a cadre of 20,000 young men and women to work on soil conservation projects in return for college tuition waivers and monthly living expenses.

In a program patterned after Peace Corps and Vista, college-aged young people will work for a year restoring wildlife habitats, farmlands and urban greenspaces. In addition to a stipend of about \$700 a month, AmeriCorps volunteers will earn a \$4,725 tuition credit to be applied to a college of their choice.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, selected a Portland

project to restore portions of the Columbia Slough and Whitaker Pond as a model for the national service program.

"This sends out an important message to the entire region, but especially the African-American community that we are going to do something about environmental damage," said Metro Councilor Ed Washington, who co-sponsored the project proposal with Portland State Professor Barry Messer. Washington grew up in North Portland near the Columbia Slough and said that he has made its restoration a personal goal.

"People of color have been fishing and using the slough for recreation and it's long past time we make it the jewel it's always had the potential to be."

According to Messer, the program will hire 20 youths full-time to work on restoration projects along the slough over the next two years. Another dozen part-time college students will act as mentors for high school students from Roosevelt, Grant, Jefferson and Marshall high schools studying natural resource management along the 18-mile waterway.

Messer said that he and Washing-

## ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE CORPS

■ **WHAT:** The newly created AmeriCorps to help solve environmental problems.

■ **WHO'S IN IT:** High school and college students.

■ **WHAT DO THEY DO:** In Portland, the job will be work along the Columbia Slough and Whitaker Pond

■ **WHAT DO THEY GET:** A \$700 monthly stipend and up to \$4,725 in tuition credits.

■ **WHERE TO CALL:** Contact Ed Washington at Metro, 797-1546 or call 1-800-94ACORPS.

ton spent more than a year drafting the slough proposal and expected work to get under way around Labor Day.

"The actual amount of money we will have to spend has not been determined yet, but it might be close to \$1 million," said Messer.

For its initial year, CNCS will fund 42 different AmeriCorps projects operating in 32 states. Portland and five other urban sites were selected for funding, including Atlanta, Chicago, East St. Louis, Boston and Washington, D.C.

# The Oregonian

# PORTLAND



◀ **SUNDAY SERENADE:**  
Lucia Galizia spins traditional Neapolitan hits on her hourlong, Sunday morning radio show aimed at Portland's Italian community / Page 11



◀ **TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES:**  
A perennial power, the Techsters face strong challenges from several PIL girls teams / Page 5



MARV BONDAROWICZ/The Oregonian

### THE CLEANUP

- **WHAT:** Cleanup of the Whitaker ponds, a 22-acre wetland.
- **WHERE:** Near old Whitaker Grade School, Northeast 52nd Avenue and Columbia Boulevard.
- **WHO:** EnviroCorps is doing most of the work, with assistance from Metro, Portland, the school district and other agencies.

On a drenching winter day, Kathryn Herliza (left) and Avis Dunas plant ferns along the edge of Whitaker ponds.

## Being Recycled

Avis Dunas, 65, says it was time to recycle herself through AmeriCorps, working on the Whitaker ponds restoration

“Working on this project — and being with all these young people — it's all brought me back to life.”

Avis Dunas

By **JOE FITZGIBBON**  
Special writer, *The Oregonian*

Her face is mud-speckled. Errant strands of white hair mat tightly against her damp forehead. Still, 65-year-old Avis Dunas sloshes through ankle-deep mud in her yellow rainslicker, waving off help as she totes buckets of fertilizer and wetland plants for Whitaker ponds restoration.

By nearly all accounts, the former teacher and restaurant critic is the oldest and probably best-educated member of President Clinton's recently formed AmeriCorps.

And, according to crew members, the most inspiring.

“Quite frankly, I don't love all of the digging and weed pulling, but I wanted to help my country,” Dunas said. “Working on this project — and being

with all these young people — it's all brought me back to life.”

In June, the president announced the formation of a cadre of 20,000 men and women willing to work on community projects in exchange for monthly living allowances and college tuition waivers.

Metro and Portland State University officials jumped at the chance to complete several environmental projects and accepted a federal grant to hire two crews of 20 workers.

Dunas was selected from hundreds of applicants and will spend the year working with young men and women — most a third of her age — restoring a 22-acre wetlands on the grounds of the old Whitaker Grade School.

The Chicago native holds advanced degrees in teaching and art history from UCLA. She took on the low-paying job because she wanted to change her life.

“It's getting harder and harder for a teacher my

age to find a job,” she said. “The way I look at it, I'm the one being recycled.”

The school, located along Northeast 52nd Avenue and Columbia Boulevard, currently houses a police training facility and three baseball fields.

Metro biologist Jim Morgan points toward two huge ponds nestled in the back of the school, overgrown with blackberry bushes and piled up with debris.

“We want this to be a place where kids will be able to walk out into the woods, throw a fishing line in the ponds, and forget for a few hours that they're in the city,” he said.

Morgan's plans call for relocating one of the ball-parks closer to the school building. He also wants to create a wildlife habitat using the ponds as a centerpiece and connect the entire area to the nearby

Please turn to  
**RECYCLED, Page 4**

## CITY LIFE

# Recycled: Hard labor mixes with organizing

■ Continued from Page 1

Columbia Slough.

A longtime resident of the area, Metro Councilor Ed Washington, supports the project.

"These ponds and sloughs were where many of us were exposed to the basic sciences — where we learned about tadpoles, frogs and plants," said Washington. "By giving young people part of the responsibility to restore them, they'll come away with a better appreciation of these special places."

Of immediate concern to Morgan, though, is the small mountain of scrap metal, plastic pipe, machine parts and creosote-treated timber dumped near the ponds.

AmeriCorps workers hired for the restoration will earn about \$4 an hour for their work, and, by year's end, receive a \$4,725 college tuition waiver to a college or university of their choice.

Dunas calls herself a "tree-hugger" who during the past 40 years has taught special education students, hard-core prisoners and well-to-do graduate students in Southern California.

She spent six years writing "The Single's Guide to Los Angeles" and was co-host of a Los Angeles television show that reviewed ethnic restaurants.

But her most enjoyable times, Dunas said, were spent leading her own tours of museums, cemeteries and shopping malls.

Crew members, most in their early 20s, marvel at her stamina, work ethic and gift of gab.

"Her knowledge and enthusiasm is a stimulation to all of us," said team leader Michael A. Burch. "She's such an extrovert that it's helped us build good relationships among the crew."

When she completes her year of service, Dunas wants to produce her own children's television show or move to Asia to study homeopathic medicine.

According to Barry Messer, urban affairs professor at PSU, AmeriCorps workers will spend much of the week on labor-intensive projects.

But, he added, the crew will also study community organizing and environmental issues while working with nonprofit groups on individual projects. Plans call for the group to canvass the old Whitaker School neighborhood during the next few weeks to encourage local residents and business owners to help develop a master site plan.



Avis Dunas (left) and Kathryn Heriza place ferns along the edge of a pond.

MARV BONDAROWICZ/The Oregonian

## Portland's slice of AmeriCorps

Oregon received more than \$600,000 in federal grants to fund 15 AmeriCorps projects. In Portland, they are:

■ **Friends of the Children:** Patterned after Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association, 24 AmeriCorps members work with at-risk second graders from five inner-city schools. Members visit homes, tutor the children and spend time with them on weekends in an attempt to help the youngsters build self-esteem.

■ **I Have a Dream Foundation:** These 24 AmeriCorps men and women have adopted nearly 300 third and fourth graders to assist them in developing strong social and academic skills. Students who graduate from high school will earn an all-expenses-paid college education from the foundation.

■ **Green Corps:** Five AmeriCorps college graduates are assisting low-income families weatherize their homes. They will teach community groups the risks of lead poisoning and help neighborhoods plan and construct community gardens.

■ **Green Lights Program:** A group of 10 AmeriCorps members will assist the Bonville Power Administration in helping 75 area schools and public buildings become more energy efficient.

■ **EnviroCorps:** Two AmeriCorps teams, made up of 20 people, will restore Whitaker Ponds, a wetlands site near the Columbia Slough, improve public access to Smith and Bybee lakes and develop a vacant lot in North Portland into a neighborhood park.

"Right now there are more people in AmeriCorps than were in Peace Corps at its peak," said Mary Carroll, assistant director of the Oregon Community Service Commission. "Most of the public may not know about them or their work yet, but, by the end of the year, I think we'll all see that change."

25 cents

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*"Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now"*

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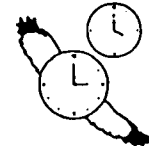
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## Retooling the Urban Landscape



Photo by Julie Krefl

...the ground at the old Whitaker School site before planting trees, shrubs and groundcover on Monday. The students joined 25 members of Cascadia Quest, a Seattle group that brings young people together from many countries to work on environmental restoration and service projects in the Pacific Northwest. In the Whitaker project, at Northeast 47th Avenue and Columbia Boulevard in Portland, a \$5,000 Metro Green spaces grant allowed the workers to put in native plants that will create a habitat for wildlife and improve water quality. The Portland Private Industry Council recruited local participants and paid them a stipend for three weeks of volunteer work.

## Domestic Violence Harms Us All

By Angela Wilson

Four women spoke about family violence in Northeast Portland last Saturday. The message they carried was clear: Family brutality is killing us, our children and our futures.

"Looking at Solutions: Violence Where We Live," sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., was held at the Mallory Avenue Christian Church. A small but enthusiastic audience listened to the speakers from the realms of education, social services and law enforcement discuss the extent of the problem and possible solutions.

The numbers are startling. Last year, 62 people were murdered in Portland. Of those, 21—mostly women—were killed by being beaten, stabbed or shot by their husbands or partners.

"That's very high for a city of our size," said Portland Police Officer and panelist Dorothy Elmore. "Think of the [cases] not documented or that went unreported."

*"Most of the violence done to women is done to women who are trying to leave. The men say, 'If you leave me, I will kill you.'"*

Dorothy Elmore